

Hafa Adai!

Hofschneider backs decentralizing ARPA projects process. **PAGE 3**
NMC to help DOF train Customs, biosecurity cadets. **PAGE 7**

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Fire damages canoe, canoe house



Photo shows the 35-foot wooden canoe that bore the brunt of the fire that broke out at the canoe house in Susupe early Monday morning. The boat was one wooden plank away from its hull being completed.

JOSHUA SANTOS

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A fire broke out early Monday morning at the canoe house near West Coast Restaurant (formerly Naked Fish Bar and Grill) in Susupe, severely damaging a 35-foot wooden boat and partially burning off a portion of the hut's roof.

According to canoe house and boat project lead John

Castro, the boat's hull was one wooden plank away from being completed but the damage from yesterday's blaze has
See FIRE on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:30pm, June 7, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **57%**
Fully Vaccinated: **57%**

Pfizer/BioNTech

Initiated: **22,884**

Fully Vaccinated: **20,456**

Moderna

Initiated: **3,945**

Fully Vaccinated: **3,264**

Janssen

Fully vaccinated: **320**

GUAM OLD NEW TOTAL

Positive **8,204** **6** **8,210**

Recovered **7,991** **21** **8,012**

Active **53** **6** **59**

Deaths **139** **0** **139**

Cumulative Number of Persons Tested **167,510**

SAIPAN OLD NEW TOTAL

Positive **183** **0** **183**

Traced via Travel Screening **147** **0** **147**

Traced via Community Screening **36** **0** **36**

Deaths **2** **0** **2**

Cumulative Number of Persons Tested **26,131***

Days since last community transmission **76**

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

States rebound from bleak forecasts to pass record budgets

By DAVID A. LIEB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—Just a year ago, the financial future looked bleak for state governments as governors and lawmakers scrambled to cut spending amid the coronavirus recession that was projected to pummel revenue.

See STATES on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Cui resigns as executive director, chair of IPI's mother company

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC chief executive officer Ray N. Yumul confirmed yesterday that Cui Li Jie has resigned as executive director of IPI's Hong-Kong based mother company, Imperial Pacific International Holdings Limited.

Cui also ceased to be both chairperson of the board of directors, and executive committee of the board, of Imperial Pacific Interna-

Cui told to preserve phone data; her lawyer withdraws

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International Holdings, Ltd. chair Cui Li Jie was ordered to submit an exhibit of her preserved phone data, and was ordered to submit a signed declara-

tional Holdings Limited.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry, Yumul said

tion in Chinese that she fully preserved the data, during a court hearing at the U.S. District Court for the NMI last Friday. Additionally, her lawyer, Juan T. Lizama, made an oral motion to the court to

See WITHDRAWS on Page 4

he was informed about Cui's decision to resign last Friday. "I'd like to wish her all the



Cui

best," he said.

Yumul said Cui's reason to step down is stated in Imperial Pacific International Holdings Limited's announcement dated June 4, 2021, and filed with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

See RESIGNS on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Docomo Pacific supports Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center's "Seeing Through Stigma."

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ASIA

China is hosting foreign ministers from 10 Southeast Asian nations this week.

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LIFE & STYLE

Prince Harry and Meghan name their second child, Lilibet "Lili" Diana Mountbatten-Windsor.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, third from left, gives brief remarks before signing House Bill 22-21 into public law. The bill renames the Commonwealth Development Authority as the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority and allows the new CEDA to proactively reach out and promote the CNMI as a location for private investment. Also in picture is Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, the bill's author Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), and Governor's Council of Economic Advisers co-chair Jerry Tan.

JOSHUA SANTOS

Torres enacts CEDA bill

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law yesterday a bill that renames the Commonwealth Development Authority as the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority and tasks it with the duty of promoting the CNMI as an investment destination in a bid to diversify its economy.

Departing from the usual practice of enacting new laws at the Office of the Governor, Torres signed House Bill 22-21 in a news briefing Monday afternoon at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room. He was joined by Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Governor's Council of Economic Advisers co-chair Jerry Tan, chief economist and member of the Fiscal Economic Diversification Committee Matthew Deleon Guerrero, and many of the CNMI's other critical economic role players.

According to the bill, "the purpose of [CEDA] is to be the primary agency tasked with the economic development of the Commonwealth, and to be empowered to undertake this mandate with the flexibility to become proactive in the pursuit of industries and investments that will strengthen the CNMI economy."

In his remarks, Tan talked about how many private investors have already expressed their interest in the CNMI and spoke of the necessity for the new CEDA to be focused on its goals. "[We need to] identify what do we need as a destination, what do we need as a community. The second step is to go out and promote and look for quality investors, quality investors that will come in and develop some-

thing that we need," Tan said.

In interviews after the event, both Hofschneider and Villagomez both expressed their support of the bill. H.B. 22-21 was unanimously passed by the House of Representatives on March 25, and was unanimously passed by the Senate on May 18.

"The CEDA bill is definitely something that both houses of the legislature unanimously supported, and the idea of creating or adding additional responsibility and [a] centralized agency for our economic development moving forward is something that we should all be excited about. We appreciate the signing of it and now it's time to put it to work," said Hofschneider.

"It's a good bill and I thank the governor and the lieutenant governor for signing this into law. Right now, we're kind of like in a downtime. We are receiving all this help from the federal government, and there's still more funding coming in so it's a good time to also take advantage of how we can recover or reconstruct. ...This is one way to get the economy stimulating and preparing for when things get back to normal as soon as possible," said Villagomez.

In an interview after the event, Demapan expressed gratitude for the Legislature's and the governor's support of the bill he authored, and said that Monday was a big day for the CNMI.

"I'm really grateful for this day. This was a big project, a very big piece of legislation that a lot of stakeholders were involved in, and to be able to be the mover of this legislation and to have it finally enacted into law so that the new CEDA can begin its efforts to reinvigorate our economy is just a major accomplishment for the Commonwealth," said Demapan.

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Better Together

Offer available in the CNMI until June 30, 2021. Promotional rates based on 30-month device installments on the NOW program. Customers must purchase handsets on NOW to claim discounts. While supplies last. Subject to credit checks. Some conditions apply.

Hofschneider backs decentralizing ARPA projects process

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. acting executive director William Gilmore, and Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) praised the administration's presentation of details of how the CNMI government plans to spend over \$512 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding.

In an interview shortly after Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig completed his ARPA

presentation Friday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza, Hofschneider said it was a very good presentation—generally speaking—and that he certainly appreciates it.

Hofschneider said he wants to ask Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his team to consider decentralizing a lot of the processes in executing the projects and programs using ARPA money.

For example, he said, Rota and Tinian mayors should be given the authority to create their own processing or team so anything that's allocated to them for projects, they 'll

work on them with all the regulations and procurements, the request for proposals, and other processes.

"Because it's time-sensitive, we need to devise, we need to decentralize," he said.

With the availability of the ARPA money, Hofschneider said, the challenge right now is the structure to carry out or execute all these projects, from groundbreaking to ribbon-cutting, especially infrastructure.

He noted the time sensitivity of all the funds.

"We need to hear the structural side of this. How are they

going to flush this down?" he asked.

Apatang said it was a good presentation and that he's glad that Torres did that so now everything is clear with ARPA.

Before the presentation, Apatang said, a lot of people were wondering what's going to happen and where the government is spending all the ARPA money. "So now that it's [spending plan] out, it's clear. We know where all the money is going. So I'm very happy and now I can do what I need to do. I got a lot of things to do in the island of Saipan,"

he said.

On the state level, the CNMI will be appropriated \$467,245,670; on the municipality levels, Saipan will get \$22,803,551; Tinian, \$11,334,010; Rota, \$8,649,665; and the Northern Islands, \$2,043,269.

Apatang said with the ARPA money, he will build what the people of Saipan have been dreaming about—its own Saipan Mayor's Office building. "That's my priority—build the mayor's office so we can have a permanent building," he said.

Apatang said every Saipan mayor that comes in has to find a new location for the office.

Gilmore said CUC is grateful for the opportunity to use ARPA funds for the benefit of the community.

"Every dollar is [going to] help us...improve not only the water system but everything," Gilmore said.

He said they are going to work with appropriate agencies to make wise use of the funding.

Gilmore said he believes CUC will get at least \$60 million to \$70 million.

Demapan said he is just

See ARPA on Next Page

CUC ADVISORIES

Schedule set for Capitol Hill Tank Service Area

Effective today, the Capitol Hill Tank Service Area's scheduled water hours are as follows:

■ Capitol Hill, Papago, Wireless Ridge, Talafofo - Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 6am to 6pm

■ Mt. Tapochau and Chalan Galaide - Daily - from 7am to 12pm

The above schedule will remain in effect until further notice.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>).

Emergency water service interruption for the Kagman, Papago, San Vincete, Dandan Homestead and Obyan Areas

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that

There will be an emergency water service interruption on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, from

8:30am to 4:30pm., for the following areas: Kagman, Papago, San Vicente, Dandan Homestead and Obyan.

The emergency water service interruption is necessary for CUC's operators to repair a leak on the 50,000-gallon water tank located near the Kagman Road and Chacha Road intersection. Water service to the affected areas will resume soon after.

As CUC announced on June 4, 2021, the Kagman Tank Service Area's daily scheduled water hours are currently as follows:

■ Kagman I and II — Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 6pm to 6am

■ Kagman III — Every Tuesday and Thursday, from 6pm to 6am

The above schedule will remain in effect until further notice.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

JKPL SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Registration is now open


Readers of all ages from early literacy, children, teens, and adults on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are invited to explore the animal kingdom this summer as the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library presents "Tails and Tales" during the 2021 Summer Reading Program.

Package-to-Go activities consists of books, STEAM activities, reading logs, supplies, and more! This summer, teens will participate in virtual reading challenges, volunteer opportunities and writing events available at www.cnmlib.org.

The 2021 Summer Reading Program Package-to-Go is open to the first 300 registered participants by category prioritizing our underserved

and underprivileged children. There are incredible prizes you can win every week this summer like gift certificates galore, books, and so much more! All programs are free of charge, with weekly completion prizes, reading challenges for most books read, virtual storytimes, and cultural classes.

Registration for "Tails and Tales" Package-to-Go began last June 1, 2021, and is open until June 11, 2021, until filled. Package-to-Go distribution will begin Wednesday, June 15, 2021. For more information, call the library at (670) 235-7315/235-7322/7323 (READ) or visit our website at www.cnmlib.org. (PR)


DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
 CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DPS-103
 SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 22, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

**"(A) PURCHASE OF TWENTY-FIVE CLASS
"I" 2WD POLICE PACKAGE SUV VEHICLES
(BLACK) (PATROL UNITS)"**

**"(B) PURCHASE OF NINE CLASS "I" 2WD POLICE
PACKAGE SUV VEHICLES (BLACK) (K9) VEHICLES
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
 COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
 ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
ONE (1) GENERAL ACCOUNTANT

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Prepare, examine or analyze accounting records, financial statements or other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards.
- Develop, implement, modify and document record keeping and accounting systems, making use of current computer technology.
- Compute taxes owed, prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting or other tax requirements.
- Inspect book of accounts and accounting systems for efficiency and use of accepted accounting procedures.
- Organize and maintain financial records.
- Assess financial operations and make best-practice recommendations to management.
- Suggest ways to reduce costs, enhance revenues, and improve profits.
- Develop, maintain and analyze budgets, preparing periodic reports that compare budgeted costs to actual costs.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree in Accountancy
- Five (5) years experience in Accounting or Finance
- Must have knowledge in Synchronics CounterPoint, QuickBooks Pro Accounting and Microsoft Office programs.

WORKING HOURS: Full Time (40 hrs/week from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
Rate of Pay: \$14.85-\$15.00 / Hour

The employer will pay or exceed the prevailing wage as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

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PUBLIC NOTICE


Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a **Special Board meeting** on Wednesday, **June 9, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Reading of the Notice of the Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Public Comments*
- III. CUC- PSS Net Metering Policy Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA")
- IV. Additional Funding Authorization from CUC Unrestricted General Fund for the Upgrade of Collapsed Sewer Mains near St. Jude Church as part of the DPW Funded Phase 2 Beach Road Improvements
- V. Public Comments*
- VI. Executive Session**
(Consultation with Legal Counsel)
- VII. Adjournment

/s/
MIRANDA V. MANGLONA, CHAIRPERSON
CUC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.
** All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.


PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

Job Announcement

Position: Pool Maintenance
No. of Vacancies: 1
Salary Range: \$7.25-\$8.33 (Hourly)
Minimum Hours per week: 40

Opening Date: 5/25/2021
Closing Date: 6/15/2021

Duties: Maintains all pools at the hotel and ensures that all standards are met in providing a clean pool. Maintains the operations and maintenance of swimming pool equipment. Performs preventive maintenance of swimming pool and swimming pool equipment daily. Maintains the pool pumps and filters. Diagnoses, repairs and maintains public swimming pools, water systems, filter systems, pumps, and playground equipment. Maintains ideal water condition, safety and cleanliness of the pool. Add acid, chlorine, and other chemicals to correct pH of swimming pool. Monitors, handles, and installs all chemicals for swimming pools. Transports and stores hazardous chemicals. Test and treat water supply. Repair machines, equipment, or structures, using various hand tools such as hammers, hoists, saws, drills, wrenches, or equipment such as precision measuring instruments or electrical or electronic testing device. Makes use of reusable items and implement any established policy. Ensure completion of planned maintenance programs. Dismantles and overhauls areas such as pumps, compressors, and pipe systems and water systems as needed. Ensure adherence to quality standards and health and safety regulations including handling of chemicals. Use tools, equipment, material and chemical safely and efficiently. Performs other related duties as required.

Job Requirements: Minimum of two (2) years related work experience at a hotel in a similar role is required. A high school diploma or higher is required. Previous HAZMAT training preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily.

Education: High School diploma.

Work Schedule: Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily.

Benefits: Fringe benefits include shift duty meals, WCC, medical insurance, vacation / personal leave, life insurance, holiday pay and 401(k) retirement benefits.

This is a non-exempt position and is eligible to receive overtime compensation in accordance to The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

Additional Notes:
A PIC Employment Application must be submitted, together with the requirements, in order to be considered for the position. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETE AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered. PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. Skills testing may be required.

STATES

From Page 1

They laid off state workers, threatened big cuts to schools and warned about canceling or scaling back building projects, among other steps.

Today, many of those same states are flush with cash, and lawmakers are passing budgets with record spending. Money is pouring into schools, social programs and infrastructure. At the same time, many states are socking away billions of dollars in savings.

“It’s definitely safe to say that states are in a much better fiscal situation than they anticipated,” said Erica MacKellar, a fiscal analyst with the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Spending plans for the budget year that begins July 1 are up 10% or more in states spanning from Florida and Maryland to Colorado, Utah and Washington.

In Oklahoma, pandemic uncertainties last year prompted lawmakers to trim \$1.3 billion from their anticipated general revenue. That resulted in across-the-board cuts for public education and most state services.

This year, the new budget is up nearly 18%. That includes money to reduce class sizes in kindergarten and first grade, funding for a new children’s behavioral health center and new incentives for businesses to make movies in Oklahoma. The Republican-led Legislature even set aside money to cut individual and corporate income tax rates and expand tax credits for a school choice program.

“Last year: shaky foundation. This year: solid foundation,” said Republican state Sen. Roger Thompson, chairman of the chamber’s budget-writing committee.

Many states experienced a similar turnaround. Fiscal analysts cite a variety of reasons.

The federal government poured billions of dollars into state coffers through a series of pandemic relief packages. Federal aid also sent billions more to U.S. households and businesses that, in turn, pumped money into the economy.

State finances also fared better than feared. Consumer spending rebounded to shore up sales tax

revenue, and state income taxes were bolstered by a strong stock market and high-wage earners who kept working remotely while others were laid off.

The result is that states now face “a very promising fiscal and economic outlook over the next couple of years,” said Justin Theal, a state fiscal research officer at The Pew Charitable Trusts.

A recent Pew report found that after an initial sharp plunge in tax revenue, 29 states recovered to take in as much or more during the peak pandemic period of March 2020 through February 2021 than they did during the same 12 months before the pandemic began.

Idaho, Utah, Colorado and South Carolina posted some of the biggest revenue gains along with South Dakota, which was one of the few states never to shut down. The Pew report also noted modest revenue gains for some states that imposed more aggressive coronavirus precautions on their economy, including California, Massachusetts and New York.

The \$212 billion budget enacted earlier this year in New York is up almost 10% over the previous one. Federal COVID-19 relief provided the bulk of that growth. But state spending alone still is up by 3.8% in the new budget, according to Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s administration.

New York’s bigger budget includes a mixture of ongoing and one-time spending, including a \$1.4 billion boost in basic aid for schools and a \$1.3 billion plan to overhaul Penn Station.

Florida’s record \$101.5 billion budget is up roughly 11%, with bonuses for teachers, police and firefighters, and new construction projects at schools and colleges. Lawmakers decided they had money to spare, expanding sales tax breaks for school and hurricane supplies and creating a new tax-free week to buy museum and concert tickets and recreational gear for camping, fishing and surfing.

Florida is among several states that amplified their 2021-22 budgets with at least part of their share of a \$195 billion state aid package from the recent American Rescue Plan Act signed by President Joe Biden.

Shortly after that plan passed,

Moody’s Investors Service upgraded the outlook for states from negative to stable, citing stronger state finances and continued federal aid. It said the new federal aid equaled nearly 16% of states’ own revenue for the 2019 fiscal year.

Many Republicans in Congress had criticized the Biden relief plan as excessive, especially in the amount of money going to state governments. Many states already had been seeing better-than-expected tax revenue even before the plan was signed into law in March.

Some states, such as Colorado, are waiting until later to decide how to use the latest COVID-19 relief funds because they have until the end of 2024 to spend it.

Even without the latest federal aid, Colorado’s budget for the fiscal year starting July 1 is up more than 12% from the previous one, which had been pared back because of pandemic concerns.

Sen. Bob Rankin, a Republican member of the Legislature’s Joint Budget Committee, said he is concerned about how that additional \$3.8 billion of federal aid will be spent.

“I’m afraid that we are spending money and making commitments that we will not be able to sustain once that one-time federal money goes away,” Rankin said.

In many states, lawmakers are devoting federal COVID-19 relief money to one-time purposes, such as additional aid to workers, expanded access to high-speed internet or replenishing depleted unemployment trust funds.

Missouri is among the states that has yet to decide what to do with the latest federal aid. The general revenue portion of its budget has rebounded from a fiscal 2021 cut to exceed pre-pandemic levels. And Missouri is on pace to shatter a record set in 1998 for its largest end-of-year cash balance.

“Revenues have performed much, much better than I would have ever anticipated during a pandemic,” said state Budget Director Dan Haug.

He said he thinks Missouri would have been able to weather the pandemic without this year’s Biden relief package.

Lawmakers in Maryland used words like “stunning” and “unique” to describe how federal aid

The canoe house and the canoe itself are part of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs’ Seafaring Traditions Program.

The boat saw many challenges in its past as it was built over the course of a few years, with Castro’s team first having to overcome Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 and the start of the COVID-19 pandemic last year. Castro said the boat was nearing its first voyage date, which he hoped to make happen within four to five months from now. The fire yesterday morning, however, inflicted irreparable damage.

There were many speculations about the fire’s origin and whether it was deliberately set or not, but the Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services has yet to issue official details on the cause of the fire as of press time Monday.

helped reshape their budget situation. The state’s record \$52.4 billion budget for its new fiscal year provides bonuses to state workers, boosts payments to the poor, builds parks and playgrounds in every county, and still sets aside about \$2 billion for savings.

“After spending almost the en-

tire part of last year in sleepless nights trying to figure out what in the world we were going to do, to find yourselves in that position was pretty amazing,” said Democratic state Sen. Guy Guzzone, chairman of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee.

WITHDRAWS

From Page 1

withdraw as her legal counsel.

According to the court hearing minutes filed on June 3, the court ordered Cui to submit to opposing lawyer Aaron Halegua a signed declaration in Chinese detailing the steps she took to preserve her phone data and to include her consent for Lizama to submit her phone to a third-party company. She was also ordered to submit a certified translated version

of her declaration.

The court ordered that Lizama is to surrender Cui’s phone to a third-party company no later than June 10, and that he is to file a declaration that Cui’s phone was surrendered as well as his motion to withdraw as Cui’s lawyer no later than the end of this week. From June 3 until the final pretrial conference for *Tianming Wang, et. al vs. Gold Mantis Construction Decoration, et. al* scheduled for Sep.8, Cui is to spend the time searching for a new lawyer.

CUI

From Page 1

The CEO said he has been notified that Xu Zhongxiang has been appointed as authorized representative.

“At this time, nothing has changed at the IPI CNMI LLC level,” Yumul said.

It was Xu who filed the June 4, 2021 announcement before the Hong Kong Stock Exchange as executive director of Imperial Pacific International Holdings Limited (Company).

Xu stated in the announcement that the board of directors of the company, together with its subsidiaries, announces that effective that day, June 4, Cui has resigned as executive director due to “personal time constraint.”

Xu said Cui also ceased to be the chairperson of the company’s board, and the company’s executive committee of the board, as well as the authorized representative of the company for the purpose of Rule 3.05 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited.

Xu said Cui has confirmed that she had no disagreement with the company’s board and there was nothing in her resignation that needs to be brought to the attention of the shareholders of the company or the stock exchange.

Xu said the board expressed its sincere gratitude to Cui “for her valuable contributions” to the subsidiaries during her tenure of office.

Xu said the company’s board also announced that with Cui’s resignation, he, an executive director of the company, has been appointed as the company’s authorized representative.

This means that, as of the June 4,

2021 announcement, the company’s board is composed of Xu as executive director, and Robert James Woolsey, Ng Hoi Yue, Lee Kwok Leung, and Ip Mei Shun as independent non-executive directors.

Last January, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona found Cui, IPI, and Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd. in contempt of court for violating a consent judgment, and not paying current IPI employees for over two months.

Last February, Manglona again found Cui in contempt of court for failing to comply with the subpoena served by Bruce Berline, one of the lawyers for seven former construction workers of IPI that was suing the company for allegedly subjecting them to forced labor while working on IPI’s casino/resort project in Garapan.

Recently, Cui informed the federal court that many of her alleged failures to cooperate with legal proceedings in the past were “caused largely, if not all of them, by her [then]-counsel Juan T. Lizama, who for some reason beyond her comprehension has failed to inform her of everything communicated to him by the opposite lawyers.”

Last April 22, the Commonwealth Casino Commission board ordered the indefinite suspension of IPI’s gaming license and directed IPI to pay \$6.6 million in total penalty within six months and pay immediately \$15.5 million and \$3.1 million in annual exclusive license fee and annual casino regulatory fee, respectively, for violating several CCC enforcement orders.

Manglona recently issued a default judgment in favor of the seven Chinese construction workers suing IPI.

tion. I really believe now that there’s hope for our future,” he said.

Demapan said he just would like to make sure that all work together to ensure that this ARPA money is spent in accordance with the guidelines, but most of all, to be spent in the two-year timeline. “If we don’t do that, then we lose out on a very big opportunity. So I will definitely be there to support this initiative, and make sure that we do what we can to improve the lives of every person in the Northern Marianas,” he said.

FIRE

From Page 1

caused it irreparable damage.

“We’re going to have to salvage what we can. ...[According to] our master canoe builder and master navigator, Tony Pailug, about 5% is salvageable, so 95% is gone,” said Castro.

The incident, which was widely shared on social media yesterday, prompted many to condemn the incident and lament what many described as an attack on culture and traditions.

“I can’t believe it! This is so sad!” said one commenter. Another said, “Omygoodness I have no words.”

As far as what he and his team will do next, all that Castro can do is keep his head up and start over.

Cap reached for additional returning worker H-2B visas

Under a recently announced H-2B supplemental cap temporary final rule, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has received enough petitions to reach the cap for the additional 16,000 H-2B visas made available for returning workers only.

"We continue to accept peti-

tions for H-2B nonimmigrant workers for the additional 6,000 visas allotted for nationals of Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador (collectively called the Northern Triangle)," according to a USCIS news release.

USCIS began accepting H-2B petitions on May 25 under the temporary final rule in-

creasing the cap by up to 22,000 additional H-2B nonimmigrant visas through the end of fiscal year 2021. Of the 22,000 additional visas, 16,000 were available only for returning workers. The remaining 6,000 visas are initially set aside for nationals from the Northern Triangle who are exempt from the returning worker requirement.

In the first five business days of filing, USCIS received petitions for more beneficiaries than the additional 16,000 visas made available for H-2B returning workers. In accordance with DHS regulations, it used a computer-generated process

to conduct a random selection of petitions to meet the 16,000 returning worker allotment for fiscal year 2021. The random selection included all H-2B cap-subject petitions filed under the H-2B returning worker allotment that were received between May 25 and June 1. USCIS said it will reject and return any cap-subject petitions for H-2B returning workers (not including those filed under the Northern Triangle allotment) received after June 1, together with any accompanying filing fees.

Petitioners whose workers were not selected for the 16,000 returning worker allotment are

encouraged to refile for workers from the Northern Triangle countries while visas for that allotment remain available. The final date for filing petitions requesting Northern Triangle nationals who are exempt from the returning worker requirement is July 8, 2021. If fewer than 6,000 beneficiaries are requested toward the visas set aside for nationals of the Northern Triangle countries, we will announce by July 23, 2021, that the remaining visa numbers will be made available to beneficiaries regardless of nationality, subject to the returning worker limitation.

USCIS said it will continue

to accept H-2B petitions for workers filing under the Northern Triangle allotment, as well as those that are exempt from the congressionally mandated cap. This includes petitions for:

■ Current H-2B workers in the United States petitioning to extend their stay and, if applicable, change the terms of their employment or change their employers;

■ Fish roe processors, fish roe technicians, and/or supervisors of fish roe processing; and

■ Workers performing labor or services in the CNMI and/or Guam from Nov. 28, 2009, until Dec. 31, 2029. (USCIS)

Lawmaker asks AG to mandate Finance to collect \$8M OT payments during Yutu

Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) has asked Attorney General Edward Manibusan to join the Office of the Public Auditor in mandating the Finance secretary to initiate collection efforts to recover \$8 million in alleged unauthorized overtime payments for appointed exempted service employees during Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

"I look forward [to] the prompt resolution of this matter," Babauta told Manibusan in a letter dated May 30, 2021, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend.

The lawmaker said she read the AG's opinion written to the public auditor on Jan. 13, 2020, in which Manibusan concluded that, "As to the extra payment for typhoon emergency work, Cabinet members are not covered under any [of the foregoing] regulations."

Babauta said Manibusan recommended in the opinion for the public auditor to review the payroll records of the emergency work compensation to ensure that government employees are paid according to law.

She said that, based on Manibusan's opinion and recommendation, she is request-

ing that the collection efforts be started as soon as possible.

The lawmaker said more than one year has passed and she is not aware of any action that had been taken to recoup the unauthorized payments.

Babauta said she is pursuing this matter because Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig has openly stated in a meeting with members of House of Representatives last Feb. 23 that \$8 million of personnel cost was deemed non-reimbursable by the Federal Emergency Management Agency due to the unlawfulness of the overtime pay.

Babauta noted that Atalig also stated at the same meeting that he will do nothing unless instructed by the Office of the Attorney General or the Office of the Public Auditor to collect such payments.

At a Senate session last month, Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) stated that Super Typhoon Yutu's over \$8 million overtime payments to exempted employees and the subsequent disallowed reimbursement by FEMA made the CNMI's deficit balloon by \$8 million or 12%. (Ferdie De La Torre)

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars this month. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **June 8 - The *NEW* System for Award Management (SAM)** - SAM and beta.sam merged recently. We will explore the new website and show you how to register your business in SAM.

■ **June 10 - Service Contract Act** - The SCA requires contractors performing services on prime contracts in excess of \$2,500 to pay service employees prevailing wages. We will discuss the details of the SCA and how contractors can stay in compliance.

■ **June 15 - Federal Acquisition Regulations Explained** - We will demystify many of the common FAR clauses found in Federal solicitations.

■ **June 17 - Buy American Act** - The BAA was put in place to protect American manufacturing. The rules are complicated and can be frustrating for government contractors. We will discuss the BAA and offer some guidance on how to stay in compliance.


■ **June 22 - SBIR/STTR Programs** - Calling all inventors and innovators. The Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs encourage small businesses to engage in Federal Research and Development that has the potential for commercialization. We will explain the programs and show how you can get involved.

■ **June 24 - Applying for a DUNS Number & Registering in SAM** - To sell your product or service to the Federal government, you need to get a DUNS number and register in SAM. We will show you how to easily and efficiently complete these registrations.


Register at <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

SLASHED


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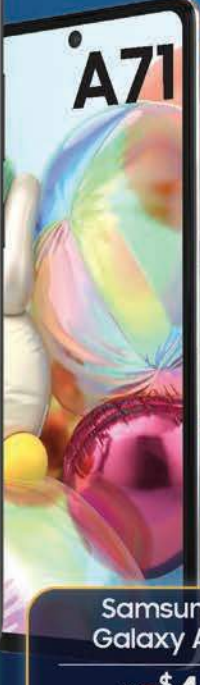
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Island Snapshots



TSUNAMI EXERCISE

Oleai Elementary School line-leaders hold up “all clear” signs during the school’s tsunami drill last week. A total of 272 people from OES walked from the school and up As Terlaje Hill to gather at a designated tsunami safe-zone at NMC’s campus.

JOSHUA SANTOS



PROJECT LIFFANG

Photo shows some of the vendors at the launch of the United Carolinians Association’s Project Liffang last Saturday near the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. Thirteen vendors selling food, arts & crafts, plants, clothing, and more were present at the event, with two even selling out.

JOSHUA SANTOS



PAVILION MAKEOVER

T-Project founder Tyra Sablan, left, and MHS Pride Club president Zen Ichiro Tomokane help paint the Da’Ok Pavilion across Marianas High School last Saturday as part of the CNMI’s celebration of Pride Month.

JOSHUA SANTOS



MARPI CLEANUP

MVA

Volunteers of Japan Saipan Travel Association clean the Korea Peace Memorial during the tourism industry cleanup on May 29, 2021. The cleanup included scenic and historic sites in Marpi.



SPEED BUMP VISIBILITY

The crew of Precinct 1 lawmakers were in San Antonio yesterday conducting a speed bump visibility project in Precinct 1. The project is a collaboration by the offices of Rep. Angel Demapan, Rep. Lee Pan Guerrero, Rep. Joseph Flores, and Rep. Roy Ada. Photo taken from the Facebook page of Demapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Representatives of the Marianas Visitors Authority, Japan Saipan Travel Association, Korea Tourism Association, Chinese Association and Japanese Society School of Saipan prepare to plant trees during the tourism industry cleanup on May 29, 2021, in Marpi.

MVA



ARPA PLAN PRESENTATION

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, and Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro pose for a group photo after the presentation of the government’s American Rescue Plan Act spending plan last Friday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza (former Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan).



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres speaks during the presentation of details of the CNMI government’s spending plan for \$512,076,165 in American Rescue Plan funding last Friday before officials and members of the Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary branches, mayors, and members of the private sector and some community leaders at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza (formerly Saipan Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan).

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



From left, Japan Saipan Travel Association president Masaru Sunaga, Japanese Society of the Northern Mariana Islands president Hideaki Sawada, JSTA vice president Masanori Takahashi, and his wife Kaoru clean the Japanese Peace Memorial during the tourism industry cleanup on May 29, 2021, in Marpi.

MVA

NMC to help DOF train Customs, biosecurity cadets

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**

joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College and the CNMI Department of Finance have agreed to work together to train Customs and biosecurity cadets that will allow them to earn 40

college credits that will go toward a criminal justice degree at the college.

Interim NMC president Frankie Eliptico and Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig signed a memorandum of agreement last Friday making official this joint opera-

tion between the DOF and the college in training Customs and biosecurity cadets that will also allow them to earn college credits.

For DOF's part, it will provide NMC with staff and instructors and will identify potential instructors and cadets, and will provide the following equipment to support the academy training cycles: classrooms, emergency vehicles, ammunition, firearms, van, tactical gear, tires, rappelling ropes, tools, and equipment; uniforms, and other materials as needed.

Parts of NMC's responsibilities include providing administrative support, advice, counseling, computer lab ac-

cess, and library services to the DOF and those participating in the academy, ensuring that prospective participants complete all of NMC's application requirements, providing a certificate of completion to cadets who complete the academy, and to apply the appropriate amount of criminal justice college credits for these cadets.

In his remarks before signing the memorandum, Eliptico said this formal partnership between NMC and the CNMI Division of Customs has been in the works for quite some time. He thanked NMC regent Irene Torres, whom he credits as "a huge advocate of building all these partnerships with other or-

ganizations here in the CNMI."

"This has been a long conversation going, and I'm glad that we're working on some finality to it, and that we can move forward with proceeding with establishing and administering the academy," said Eliptico.

Atalig looks forward to how the partnership between the DOF and NMC will develop. "I too have been a long-time staffer at NMC, and my heart has always been with NMC as well and an avid supporter of NMC and its programs. This program will be to many a new chapter in their personal and professional careers," said Atalig.

CNMI Customs director

Jose Mafnas expressed gratitude to Atalig for his support of the division and its programs, and spoke of how awarding cadets with 40 college credits upon completing training is a great opportunity to pursue the remaining 20 credits to receive an associate degree.

"It was really exciting for us to hear and for the officers that after the academy they earn 40 [college credit] hours. ...Mr. Secretary [Atalig] has always been very supportive with the programs that we have at Customs, especially in training our officers," said Mafnas.

The agreement between NMC and the DOF is effective from last Friday to June 4, 2024.

Torres says \$21.1M award is largest single project award in EDA history

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In announcing Friday the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's award of \$21.2 million to the CNMI to rebuild the Oleai Sports Complex, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres described it as the largest single project grant award to a state or territory in EDA history.

Torres said this will provide for a state-of-the-art sports complex and a cultural events site and will greatly benefit local athletes as the CNMI positions to grow its sports tourism and cultural tourism industries.

"Our goal for the sports complex is to make the CNMI a highly-attractive training destination for our tourism industry and allow for the hosting of large-scale regional sport events," he said.

Torres talked about the \$21.2-million grant in the introduction part of his speech

» **Governor says funding will be used to have a state-of-the-art sports complex and cultural events site**

during the CNMI's government's presentation about the American Rescue Plan Act's spending plan at the Hibiscus Hall of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan (formerly Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan).

The governor said that, with this EDA with this funding, the CNMI will build a cultural event site dedicated to local, regional, and international cultural and arts events within the Pacific.

"Most importantly, it will be a place on the central part of our island to encourage everyone in our community to get fit and live a healthy lifestyle," he said.

Torres commended the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the Office of Planning and Development for taking the lead on this, and EDA staff who provided important technical assistance along the way.

"This award is an example of what we can accomplish in the face of disaster," the governor said.



Seated from left, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico, and CNMI Customs director Jose Mafnas pose for a photo with staff members from the CNMI Division of Customs at the NMC boardroom last Friday.

JOSHUA SANTOS

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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859 | Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Jesse Dean Reyes Domingo

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER)
OF THE PETITION TO) FCD-GU CIVIL
APPOINT GENERAL) ACTION
GUARDIANSHIP FOR:) NO. 21-0188
DIANA REYES)
DOMINGO,) NOTICE OF
An Adult Person) HEARING ON
(Incompetent).) PETITIONER'S
By:) PETITION FOR
JESSE DEAN) APPOINTMENT
REYES DOMINGO,) OF GENERAL
Petitioner.) GUARDIANSHIP

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HERE BY GIVEN that the Court shall hear the above-entitled matter on this 19th day of July 2021 at 9:00 a.m. for Petitioner Jesse Dean Reyes Domingo's Notice of Hearing on Petition for Appointment of General Guardianship. The parties are directed to be present at the hearing at which time the Court shall consider the Petition.

SO ORDERED on this 3rd day of June, 2021.

/s/
Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Romando D. Lagrio) FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION
Petitioner) NO. 21-0156
Vs.) SUMMONS FOR
Marietta G. Lagrio) PUBLICATION
Respondent,)

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDED: Marietta G. Lagrio

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505011 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 26th day of April, 2021.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF/ITS-105
SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 08, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"(A) PURCHASE OF NINETY (90) DELL LATITUDE 7520 LAPTOP"
"(B) PURCHASE OF EIGHTY-THREE (83) DELL THUNDERBOLT DOCK WD19TBS" **"(C) PURCHASE OF NINETY-FOUR (94) WIRELESS COMBO MOUSE AND KEYBOARD KM5221W"** FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF/ITS-107
SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 08, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"(A) PURCHASE OF THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX (366) DELL 27" MONITOR S2721HS" **"(B) PURCHASE OF THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX (366) DISPLAY PORT CABLE"** **"(C) PURCHASE OF TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE (231) UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLY (UPS)"** FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF/ITS-106
SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 08, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE (231) DELL OPTIPLEX 7090 DESKTOP" FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DPS-102
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 22, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"(A) PURCHASE OF TWENTY-FIVE CLASS "F" PICK UP TRUCK WITH OFF ROAD PACKAGE" VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The Tulsa massacre and denial of tenure for Nikole Hannah-Jones: the whitewashing of American history continues

“We can’t just choose to learn what we want to know and not what we should know,” President Joe Biden said Tuesday from Tulsa, Oklahoma, on the 100th anniversary of a targeted massacre of Black residents there by their white neighbors. Dozens of people were killed in the attacks, hundreds were hospitalized, and thousands were held hostage, some for days. More than 35 square blocks in the wealthy Black community were destroyed. Yet many Americans know little, if anything, about the events. They were never taught.

America has a shameful history on race. From building the country on the free labor of enslaved people kidnapped from Africa, to snatching land from Native Americans, the U.S. has long treated people of color as less than human. The remnants of earlier oppression continue to exist today, in subtler forms of institutional racism that still hold back African American people and other groups.

This sordid past makes many people uncomfortable; it’s something they’d rather not talk about. Even worse, some people want to act like it doesn’t exist at all in an erasure of history. We saw it for years regarding Tulsa, and we’re seeing it again now, in the backlash to New York Times journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones and her 1619 project series that looked at the legacy of slavery in America.

The project ran in the Times Magazine in August 2019; it was widely acclaimed and won the journalist a Pulitzer Prize for her introductory commentary. It also ignited a barrage of criticism from people on the right who couldn’t handle the truth, including former President Donald Trump, who called the effort to look at America’s history through a racial lens “toxic propaganda” and “ideological poison” that would “destroy our country.” School systems moved to ban its teaching in the classroom and, in the latest saga, Ms. Hannah-Jones was denied the prestigious Knight Foundation-endowed chair in race and investigative journalism with tenure at the University of North Carolina because certain conservatives disliked the project and a separate essay she wrote advocating for reparations. Instead, she was offered a five-year contract with the possibility of tenure later, unlike others who previously held the position.

The message is clear: Some only like their history whitewashed. Textbooks have long glossed over slavery or de-

See TULSA on Next Page



Will you have fewer friends after lockdown?

As many countries tentatively loosen their corona restrictions, some of us are feeling anxious. Have my social skills gotten rusty from long quarantines and lockdowns? Have my friendships gone stale? Will I still have my old clique to return to? Have my social circles frayed or shrunk?

To get a scientific perspective, I put these questions to Robin Dunbar, a British anthropologist and evolutionary psychologist. I’ve kept tabs on his research for almost three decades, ever since he wrote a groundbreaking paper in 1992. Dunbar discovered a remarkably stable ratio across all species of primates between the size of their neocortex and their social group: the larger the brain, the larger the community.

This makes sense. Surviving and thriving in groups requires vast amounts of cognitive power. Who likes and dislikes me? Have those two slept together? Is that other guy jealous? Does that one over there remember my slight from two months ago? Could I turn that rival into an ally? And so forth.

This became controversially known as the “social brain hypothesis”—or the “Machiavellian intelligence hypothesis,” which sounds quite sinister. But other research emphasizes that our cognition also makes us “prosocial” and caring toward others. Hence the abundant grooming that primates do to get the endorphins flowing. For us that usually means hugging.

One nuance in Dunbar’s theory is that primate groups come in different categories. Humans, for instance, tend to be intimately close with only about five other people. They also form “bands” of about 40—such as hunting parties, platoons or teams, say—and much larger “tribes,” numbering in the thousands. But the average size of a human “community” is, and always has been, about 150.

It’s astonishing how stable this so-called “Dunbar number” is. It describes the average upper limit of hunter-gatherer groups, medieval villages, online gaming communities, Christmas card lists, church congregations and more. When human groups exceed the number—as when companies grow to more than 150 employees—our innate cognition usually becomes inadequate and we need bureaucracy to organize ourselves.

In 2009, when online social networks were still new to many of us, I wondered whether technology could increase the Dunbar number, so I asked Facebook to crunch some data. No, it turned out. Facebook and its ilk may let us manage what is in effect an enlarged Rolodex of acquaintances. But they can’t raise the limit

By **ANDREAS KLUTH**
Bloomberg Opinion

Andreas Kluth is a columnist for Bloomberg Opinion. He was previously editor in chief of Handelsblatt Global and a writer for the Economist. He’s the author of Hannibal and Me.



on quality relationships we maintain, because that appears to be biological.

But what about the pandemic and all the lockdowns it made necessary? Such unnatural periods of social isolation must wreak havoc on the primate psyche. I doubt that other apes and monkeys would survive a prolonged quarantine. Bonobos need constant sexual stimulation to maintain group harmony and cohesion. Other primates do less of that, but your average chimp, lemur or baboon would also wither without social contact. Their communities would unravel.

Monkeys don’t have Zoom, of course, whereas we do. Still, our whizz-bang social media are at best imperfect and partial substitutes for in-the-flesh grooming. On Zoom you can see people’s eyes, but you can’t tell what they’re gazing at, a crucial signal in group dynamics. You can have only one person speaking at a time. You can’t scent pheromones. And you can’t hug, poke or otherwise get oxytocin flowing.

Things like Zoom only “slow down the rate of decay in the absence of face-to-face contact,” Dunbar told me in an email. “They won’t stop a friendship becoming an acquaintanceship, someone I once knew.”

The absence of social contact probably won’t affect our inner layer of intimate contacts. But in our wider communities, Dunbar thinks, “when you meet again in person, there will be just an edge of uncertainty as to whether the relationship is still the same.” Many may no longer be.

But that’s fine, Dunbar reassures me. The effect is only temporary and requires some social “renegotiation.” This could mean that interesting changes are afoot in the coming months and years, within companies, neighborhoods, schools and other communities. Eventually, though, we’ll all settle back down to our natural groupings of about 150 people—fortunately, that’s fixed by our brains.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Jointly held businesses: Four key exit provisions

Recently a group including former baseball star Alex Rodriguez tried to buy a controlling interest in the Minnesota Timberwolves and the Minnesota Lynx for \$1.5 billion. But the deal ran into legal hot water. The Timberwolves' second largest shareholder, Meyer Orbach, is not a fan of the deal, so he filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking to put the transfer on hold.

What's the fuss about? Orbach alleges that the sale violates the franchise's partnership agreement. Specifically, he claims that the teams' majority owner failed to honor tag-along rights that would have allowed minority investors like Orbach to sell their ownership interest before the majority owner sold his.

While it's not clear how the dispute will unfold, the drama introduces an important consideration for anyone who jointly owns a business—how you or your partners can exit the venture, whether voluntarily or because of a falling out. Below are some typical issues that you may want to address in your company's governing documents.

To begin, what happens if one owner wants to sell some or all of their ownership in the business? Normally, the company documents will have a pre-emptive rights clause that prohibits such a sale until the selling owner has given the non-selling owners a reasonable chance to buy them. If the non-selling owners decline, then the selling owner can market their ownership interest to outsiders on terms no better than the non-selling owners received. For instance, if a selling owner offered to sell his ownership for \$100,000 to his fellow owners, he could not turn around and offer the same ownership to outsiders for \$50,000 because the outsiders would have received a better offer than the other owners. But if the selling owner offered to sell his ownership for \$100,000 to his fellow owners, he could sell those same rights to outsiders for \$120,000 because the outsiders received a worse offer.

Next, what happens if a majority owner wants to sell? Because

they own a majority of the business, whoever buys their stake will take control. So, a majority owner can often sell its ownership at a premium. But minority owners are not so lucky. Not only does their minority ownership trade at a discount but they may have little say in who the new majority owners might be. To protect minority owners, company documents frequently include a tag-along clause that allows minority owners to sell their ownership on the same terms as the majority owner. This clause, in turn, enables minority owners to extract the same price as a majority owner while also potentially giving them some influence over ownership sales.

Third, what if the controlling owner wants to sell the entire business but the minority owners don't? In these cases, minority owners can hold the deal hostage until they get paid a king's ransom. Not good for the majority owner. To prevent this scenario, company documents regularly contain a drag-along clause. This clause allows a controlling owner to force the minority owners to sell too if the controlling owner finds a buyer willing to acquire the entire business.

Sometimes drag-along clauses are combined with a pre-emptive rights clause. In other words, the controlling owner will offer to sell the company to the minority owners. But if the minority owners don't want to buy, then they can be forced to sell to the outsider buyer.

Finally, what happens if owners have fallen out? Maybe they don't think their fellow owners are holding their own weight. Or perhaps personality clashes have escalated beyond repair. Whatever the reason, the owners may not be able to work together any more. In that case, company documents commonly have forced-sale clauses. These clauses give each owner a way to push out an unwanted owner.

Forced-sale provisions come in many shapes and sizes. But the most common version is similar to the I-cut-you-pick approach to deciding how to split the last piece of cake. Under it,

FINE PRINT

By **JORDAN SUNDELL**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer. His practice primarily focuses on business, real estate, estate planning, and asset protection. You can find his columns here every other Tuesday as well as on The Fine Print on Facebook. You can contact Mr. Sundell via this newspaper at editor@saipantribune.com or 235-6397/235-2440.

one owner offers to buy the other owner's stake for a pre-determined price (such as the company's market price as determined by an independent evaluation). The second owner then has two choices: They can sell their interest at that price or they can buy the first owner's stake for the same price.

When drafting forced-sale provisions, it's important to be careful. While they can be helpful, they also can trigger unequal results. For instance, let's say one owner is going through financial difficulties. That's a perfect time for a fellow owner to activate the forced-sale provision knowing full well that the struggling owner will have no choice but to sell.

As the four scenarios suggest, jointly held businesses have some complications that a single owner does not need to worry about. If you are considering becoming a part-owner of a business, you will want to think through these scenarios and tailor a solution specific to your needs. Don't just find a contract template somewhere and assume it will adequately address your situation.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

Investing in schools builds communities

As one of the most memorable school years in history winds down, state and local school leaders are considering how to make the most of the \$190 billion federal dollars in COVID-19 relief flowing to our nation's public schools.

The wise course of action would be to fund initiatives that address both the short-term impacts of the pandemic, while laying the groundwork for long-term student success. Fortunately, some states have already taken this approach with money from the first round of federal relief aid, distributed through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act.

In California, state leaders used \$45 million in CARES funding to start a competitive grant program for expanding and sustaining school programs that provide student health, mental health and other support services, as well as training to local personnel. In Ohio, Cincinnati's school district used CARES money to offer students summer learning programs that address both short-term learning loss due to the pandemic and provide learning opportunities that could be sustained when schools resume in the fall.

In each of these cases, state leaders were guided by what's known as the "community school" strategy.

Community schools are public schools that bring together community partners to offer a range of support and opportunities to students, families, and nearby residents. They are designed to support the entirety of a student's well-being to ensure they are

healthy, well-fed, safe and in a better position to learn. These benefits then extend to the surrounding community.

Schools following a community schools strategy have been some of the real success stories both before and during the pandemic.

When COVID-19 hit, Los Angeles's 93rd Street Steam Academy sprang into action, providing monthly groceries to 80 of its families. By September, the school, located in one of the city's poorest neighborhoods, was distributing food to 300 families twice a month. It gave away clothing and household essentials to families and the broader community, including people experiencing homelessness.

Another school guided by the community schools strategy is Gibsonton Elementary, located in a high-poverty, semi-rural area outside of Tampa, Florida. Just prior to the pandemic, the school used the community schools strategy to help improve standardized test scores.

At the start of the pandemic, the school expanded its on-campus food offerings, gave away backpacks full of school supplies, and installed a campus washer-dryer. It also organized an effort to have the county install new streetlights around campus to increase student safety.

Research shows that community schools that adhere to best practices not only improve student educational outcomes, but they also reduce racial and economic achievement gaps.

A study released in 2020 found that 113 of New York City's

reality and demanding the truth regarding the country's legacy. Two hundred people signed onto a letter in the publication *The Root* slamming Ms. Hannah-Jones' tenure track denial, including Baltimore native and writer Ta-Nehisi Coates and filmmaker Ava DuVernay, and 150 historians. In a separate letter that ran in a full-page ad in the *News & Observer* newspaper, 1,619 University of North Carolina alumni also expressed outrage. "Dismissing a list of merits that includes winning a Pulitzer Prize, Peabody Award, and MacArthur 'Genius' Grant is an attempt to penalize Nikole Hannah-Jones for her groundbreaking and unvarnished reporting of American history," the ad reads. "We demand that the Board of Trustees immediately revisit this matter, grant tenure as recommended by the appropriate faculty, Dean

By **JEREMY MOHLER**

Progressive Media Project



Jeremy Mohler is communications director at In the Public Interest. His writing has appeared in the Washington Post, USA Today, the Guardian, Jacobin, The American Prospect, El Nuevo Día, and other outlets. This column was produced for The Progressive magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.

public schools using the community school strategy experienced improvements in attendance, graduation rates, math scores, and the rate at which students advance grade levels. The results motivated New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio to include \$10 million in his proposed 2022 budget to expand the number of community schools from 267 to 406.

With unprecedented federal funding headed their way, state and local school leaders should take a hard look at the community school strategy, especially given the widespread trauma and instability experienced by students over the past year. The pandemic, while an extraordinary tragedy, has gifted us the chance to reimagine public education and aim our efforts towards what is working for students elsewhere.

and Provost, and restore the integrity of our University."

There's no guarantee that there will be a new vote on Ms. Hannah-Jones tenure, and it's unclear when the board may take up the issue, according to *The News & Observer*. But the public pressure has made it clear that history and truth still matter to many in this country. President Biden said it well on Tuesday: "We should know the good, the bad, everything. That's what great nations do. They come to terms with their dark sides. And we're a great nation. The only way to build a common ground is to truly repair and to rebuild."

We can't do that if we don't acknowledge what's broken.

TULSA

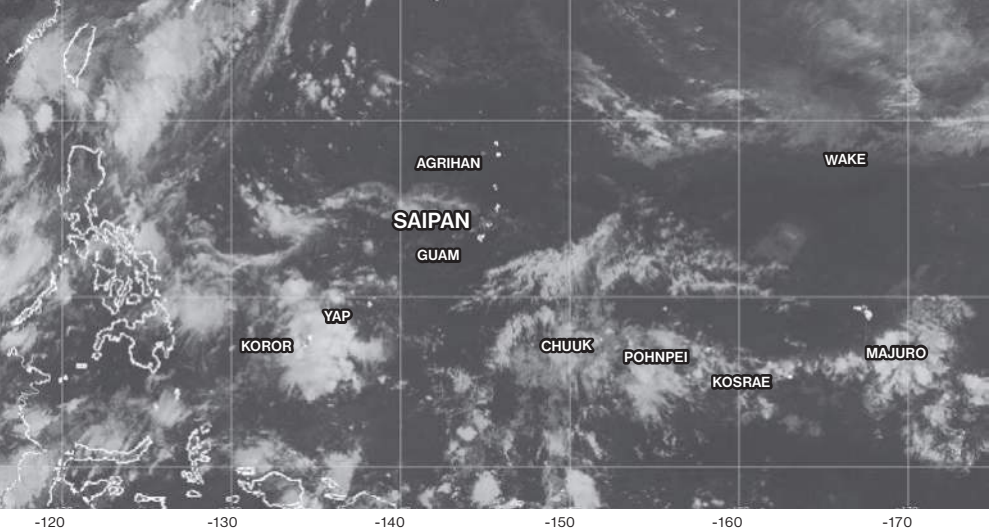
From Page 8

picted the enslaved as happy and content. Some plantation tours don't acknowledge slavery at all. Then there are those who deny the Holocaust and downplay the Japanese internment camps created during World War II.

The rewriting of history is nothing short of cowardly, and it's allowed the vestiges of slavery to fester, resulting in inequities in housing, personal wealth, education, the judicial system and environmental issues that persist in America today. The rest of us must stand up to revisionists by pushing back against their false

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds becoming east around 10 mph in the afternoon.		Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly sunny. Isolated showers. Light and variable winds.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:57 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies and isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. A trade-wind trough along 148E is generating an increased amount of clouds to the east. The buoys reveal 3 to 4 foot combined seas composed of a north-northeast swell and a smaller east trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	90 80 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F	
Yap	Cloudy	87 73 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87 80 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84 79 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84 80 °F	
Majuro	Partly cloudy	85 80 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:46 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:58 AM	4:57 PM	-
Wednesday	4:38 AM	5:47 PM	-
Thursday	5:20 AM	6:38 PM	-
Friday	6:06 AM	7:31 PM	-
Saturday	6:56 AM	8:23 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	60 47 °F	
Beijing	Thunderstorms	88 76 °F	
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	87 81 °F	
Honolulu	Sunny	85 73 °F	
London	Partly cloudy	66 57 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly cloudy	76 60 °F	
Manila	Thunderstorms	88 79 °F	
Melbourne	Sunny	55 41 °F	
Miami	Thunderstorms	85 77 °F	
New York	Cloudy	59 53 °F	
Osaka	Cloudy	72 67 °F	
Paris	Partly cloudy	69 54 °F	
Pusan	Overcast	75 59 °F	
Rome	Partly cloudy	84 62 °F	
Salem	Partly cloudy	82 53 °F	
San Francisco	Sunny	66 53 °F	
Seoul	Cloudy	69 58 °F	
Tokyo	Cloudy	74 67 °F	
Washington, DC	Rain	67 55 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:08 AM	Low Tide	1.23	
5:34 AM	High Tide	1.95	
12:53 PM	Low Tide	0.18	
7:49 PM	High Tide	1.83	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 20, 2021									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6,		UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6,	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam		UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5		UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5	
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,		UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)									

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Business

Docomo Pacific supports ‘Seeing Through Stigma’ events



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center social marketer/communication manager Isabella Shinohara, left, and Docomo Pacific public relations manager Jared Roberto.

TAMUNING, Guam—Docomo Pacific, regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, supports Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center’s “Seeing Through Stigma” Events for the month of May.

In observance of Mental

Health Awareness Month, the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center Employee Association held a series of events, which included: a virtual 5k, an island wide youth art competition, a commissioned mural, a lighting ceremony, and wellness festival. In

sum, the events were designed to encourage the community to prioritize mental health and to increase awareness of the support programs that are available locally.

Docomo Pacific contributed items to the 5K finisher packets for the first 150 registrants and a cash donation to go toward the lighting ceremony. The overall proceeds raised throughout the month of May will go toward supplying much needed resources for the I Guma Mina’ase’ Sr. Brigid Foster Home in Barrigada Heights.

“This pandemic has taught us the importance of priori-

tizing our mental health and that we are stronger when we join together as a community in taking on these tough issues. We want to build on the momentum from this month by encouraging everyone to see through the stigma around mental health and create positive change one mind at a time. You are not alone. GB-HWC is here to help. Call our 24/7 Crisis hotline at 647-8833/34,” said Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center social marketer/communication manager Isabella Shinohara.

Guam Behavioral Health

and Wellness Center’s mission is to provide culturally respectful, quality behavioral health services, that support and strengthen the well-being of the persons served, their families and the community in a safe environment. If you need a someone to talk to regarding your mental health, you can contact their crisis hotline at 671-647-8833/34 or visit their website at <https://gb-hwc.guam.gov/>.”

Docomo Pacific is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT DOCOMO, Japan’s leading mobile operator. Headquartered in Tamuning, Guam,

Docomo Pacific is the largest provider of personal, residential, enterprise connectivity and entertainment services in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Named Guam’s most reliable network, based on GWS’ 2019 OneScore ranking. Docomo Pacific is also the five-time winner of Pika’s Best of Guam and four-time winner of Best of The Pacific. Docomo Pacific is dedicated to bringing you and your family closer to the things that matter most. Get to know more about what makes us “Better Together” at www.docomopacific.com. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Each bag was dedicated to those who are currently suffering with a mental health related illness and to those who lost their lives to their mental health struggle. Families were able to write a positive mental health message if they didn’t have someone to dedicate the bags too.

France tackles virus variants as it readies for tourists

(AP)—French health authorities are racing to contain scattered cases of the more contagious delta virus variant, as France prepares to reopen its borders to vaccinated visitors and celebrates plunging COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates.

Health Minister Olivier Veran said Sunday that France has multiple clusters of the variant, first identified in India and believed to be fueling a rise in infections in neighboring Britain, notably in the southwest Landes region. Speaking on BFM television, Veran said the variant hadn’t spread widely into the community and that health investigators are working to track cases.

Overall, he insisted, “the epidemic situation continues to strongly improve around the country,” but said the government isn’t preparing to lift mask requirements anytime soon. With growing numbers of people packing into Paris’ sidewalk cafes, parks and riverside quays, Veran warned that it’s too early for people to let down their guard, notably until more are fully vaccinated.

The French public health agency’s latest weekly epidemiological report shows a sustained drop in virus in-

fections, hospitalization rates and deaths even after France started reopening schools, stores, and restaurants last month. More than half the adult population has had at least one vaccine dose, and 23% are fully vaccinated.

Emboldened by signs the virus is receding, one of the world’s most-visited countries is reopening borders to vaccinated travelers from the U.S. and much of the world starting Wednesday.

The delta variant is now dominant in Britain, and its spread has prompted France and some other countries to impose new restrictions on visitors from the U.K.. Britain’s public health agency said early evidence suggests there may be an increased risk of hospital admission from the delta variant.

The French health agency reported cases of the delta variant in multiple French regions, most linked to people arriving from India. While case numbers remain low, the agency said, “the multiplication of episodes ... augments the risk of local transmission of this variant.”

France has registered more virus cases than any country in Europe and among the world’s highest virus-related death tolls, at more than 109,000 lives lost.

El Salvador president wants Bitcoin as legal tender

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)—El Salvador President Nayib Bukele announced in a recorded message played at a Bitcoin conference in Miami that next week he will send proposed legislation to the country’s congress that would make the cryptocurrency legal tender in the Central American nation.

The 39-year-old president, who has maintained approval ratings above 90% and made Twitter his preferred way of communicating, characterized it as an idea that could help El Salvador move forward.

“Next week I will send to Congress a bill that will make Bitcoin a legal tender in El Salvador,” Bukele said in the message Saturday. “In the short term this will generate jobs and help provide financial inclusion to thousands outside the formal economy and in the medium and long term we hope that this small decision can help us push humanity at least a tiny bit into the right direction.”

The U.S. dollar is El Salva-

dor’s official currency. About one quarter of El Salvador’s citizens live in the United States and last year, despite the pandemic, they sent home more than \$6 billion in remittances.

Stephen McKeon, a finance professor at the University of Oregon who studies cryptocurrencies, said Bitcoin is legal to own in most countries but has never been designated as legal tender, which would mean it could be used to settle financial obligations, including taxes.

But, he added, “It is unclear whether anyone desires to pay their taxes in Bitcoin.”

Bukele’s New Ideas party holds a supermajority in the new congress seated May 1, giving any legislative proposal from the president a strong likelihood of passage.

Additional details of the plan were not released. But Bukele in subsequent messages on Twitter noted that Bitcoin could be “the fastest growing way to transfer six billion dollars a year in

remittances.” He said that a big chunk of those money transfers were currently lost to intermediaries and with Bitcoin more than a million low-income families could benefit.

He also said 70% of El Salvador’s population does not have a bank account and works in the informal economy. Bitcoin could improve financial inclusion, he said.

Riding his high popularity and his party’s dominance performance in Feb. 28 elections, Bukele has concentrated power. His party’s supermajority in congress ousted the justices of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court May 1. They then replaced the attorney general.

They had been critical of some of Bukele’s more drastic measures during the pandemic, including a mandatory stay-at-home order and containment centers where those caught violating the policy were detained.

While enjoying a positive relationship with former U.S. President Donald Trump,

Bukele has had a much more tense relationship with the administration of President Joe Biden.

Last month, the White House Special Envoy for the Northern Triangle Ricardo Zúñiga said during a visit to El Salvador that the U.S. government would like to see El Salvador reverse the moves against the court and the attorney general. Bukele said that would not happen.

Bukele’s concentration of power, attacks on critics and open disdain for checks on his power have raised concerns about El Salvador’s path. However, Bukele has a wide base of support in part due to the utter failure of the country’s traditional parties who ruled during the past 30 years to improve people’s lives and to his ability to provide short-term benefits.

Bukele has been praised for aggressively obtaining COVID-19 vaccines and running an efficient vaccination program far more successful than El Salvador’s neighbors.

Nation

No mass protests after Honolulu police shoot, kill Black man

HONOLULU (AP)—Lindsay Myeni and her South African husband moved to Hawaii, where she grew up, believing it would be safer to raise their two Black children here than in another U.S. state.

Three months after they arrived, Honolulu police shot and killed her husband, 29-year-old Lindani Myeni, who was Black.

"We never thought anything like this would ever happen there," Lindsay Myeni, who is white, told The Associated Press in an interview from her husband's hometown, Empangeni in Kwazulu-Natal province.

To some, Lindani Myeni's death and the muted reaction from residents, is a reminder that Hawaii isn't the racially harmonious paradise it's held up to be.

The couple moved to Honolulu from predominately white Denver in January.

Hawaii, where white people are not the majority and many people identify as having multiple ethnicities, felt right: "We were refreshed to be back to somewhere that is so diverse."

Of Hawaii's 1.5 million residents, just 3.6% are Black, according to U.S. Census Bureau data. Yet in Honolulu alone, Black people made up more than 7% of the people police used force against, according to Honolulu police data for 2019.

While there have been some local gatherings and small protests decrying Myeni's death, it hasn't inspired the passionate outrage seen elsewhere in



In a 2021 photo provided by Bickerton Law Group representing the family of Lindani Myeni, he is standing on a beach in Waimanalo, Hawaii with his wife and two children.

Krishna temple next door. Earlier in the day, the family had visited culturally significant places as they drove to Oahu's north shore. At one point, the couple prayed together, she recalled, because something felt off. He seemed stressed.

Because of that, she thinks her husband, who was Christian and connected to his Zulu culture, was seeking out a spiritual place in his new neighborhood.

Shortly before the shooting, she spoke to him by phone. He was on his way home, some five blocks away.

He was wearing his umqhele when he was shot, his widow said. The traditional Zulu headband, along with taking his shoes off at the door, meant he went to the house with respectful intentions, she said.

the aftermath of the death of George Floyd, a Black man killed last year by a white officer in Minnesota, and other killings by police.

Myeni's death "would have generated mass protests in any other American city," said Kenneth Lawson, a Black professor at University of Hawaii's law school.

"When you're told you live in a paradise and you point out that it's not paradise for people of color, that makes people uncomfortable," he said.

One reason for a lack of outrage, he said, is that police have released limited details

of what happened. "What's being revealed is what they want us to see," he said.

According to police's account of the fatal shooting, Myeni entered a home that wasn't his, sat down and took off his shoes, prompting a frightened occupant to call 911. Outside the house, he ignored commands to get on the ground and physically attacked officers, leaving one with a concussion, police said.

Police released two brief clips from body camera footage, but it's difficult to make out what is happening in the dark. Three shots

ring out and then an officer exclaims, "Police."

A wrongful death lawsuit Lindsay Myeni filed against Honolulu alleges police were "motivated by racial discrimination towards people of Mr. Myeni's African descent."

Simply by being Black, he was seen as an "immediate threat," that the Asian woman who called 911 needed to be protected from, she said.

Now-retired police Chief Susan Ballard, who is white, said at the time that officers reacted to Myeni's behavior, not his race. "This person seriously injured the officers and

their lives were in jeopardy," she said.

Myeni's widow thinks he mistook the home for a Hare

Police: 3 dead, others hurt in Florida grad party shooting

MIAMI (AP)—Three people are dead and at least five others injured following a shooting at a Florida graduation party, the latest in a string of such violence in the Miami area, police said Sunday.

One of those killed was a state corrections officer, Miami-Dade police Director Alfredo "Freddie" Ramirez told news outlets. He said the party at a strip mall lounge was ending when one or more vehicles "pulled up and began to fire into the crowd."

The identities of all of those killed and wounded were not immediately released Sunday. The shooting happened about 2 a.m. in the suburb of Kendall.

State corrections officials identified the officer who died as Tyleisha Taylor, 20, who had worked at Dade Correctional Institution since January 2020.

Florida Secretary of Corrections Mark Inch said in a statement that "we are devastated to learn a member of our FDC family, Officer Taylor, was killed in a fatal shooting. Our prayers are with her family as they navigate this unimaginable loss."

Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said she was "horrified" by this latest shooting.

"We will not allow a small group of violent actors to terrorize our community, and violent offenders will face the full weight of the law," she said in a statement Sunday.

"I'm fully committed to making sure Miami-Dade Police Department has all the resources they need to end this cycle of gun violence and prevent more tragedy by getting violent criminals off the street," she added.

Two of those who died were in one of the cars police believe was involved in the shooting. The vehicle sped off and crashed into a nearby wall. Authorities found at least one gun in the car, but its exact connection to the shooting was unclear.

Sunday's shooting follows a bloody Memorial Day weekend in the Miami area that saw three people killed and 20 wounded in a still-unsolved mass shooting at a banquet hall.

Another shooting on May 28 in the Wynwood area killed one person and injured six others.

"Every weekend, it's the same thing. We have to band together," Ramirez said. "There's a lot of work to do. We have to come together as a community and make this stop."

Virginia court to hear challenges to removal of Lee statue

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Last June, when Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam announced a plan to take down a 131-year-old statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, the move was met with widespread praise and relief from racial justice activists who had long seen it as a symbol of white supremacy.

A year later, the enormous bronze equestrian statue still towers over a traffic circle on historic Monument Avenue in downtown Richmond, kept in place by two lawsuits filed by people who believe it should stay right where it is.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court of Virginia will hear arguments in the legal challenges.

Among the central issues to be decided by the court: Is the Commonwealth of Virginia bound by a decision made by state officials more than 130 years ago? Or can the state undo that decision because the public's attitude toward Confederate symbols has changed

drastically since then?

Attorneys for the plaintiffs will argue that the governor does not have the authority to remove the statue, while Attorney General Mark Herring's office will ask the court to uphold a lower court's rulings in favor of the governor.

Northam's decision to take down the statue was announced just 10 days after George Floyd's death under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer, during a time when there were nightly protests over police brutality and racism in cities around the country, including Richmond.

Separate lawsuits were filed by a group of residents who own property near the statue and a descendant of signatories to a 1890 deed that transferred the statue, pedestal and land they sit on to the state.

In the latter lawsuit, William Gregory argues that the state agreed to "faithfully guard" and "affectionately

protect" the statue. In the other lawsuit, five property owners, including lead plaintiff Helen Marie Taylor, say that an 1889 joint resolution of the Virginia General Assembly accepting the statue and agreeing to maintain it as a monument to Lee is binding on the governor. They say Northam's order to remove the statue exceeded the governor's authority under the Virginia Constitution.

During a trial in October, the state argued that it cannot be forced to maintain a statue that no longer reflects its values.

Richmond Circuit Court Judge W. Reilly Marchant agreed, finding that enforcing the 19th-century deed would violate "current public policy."

The judge also cited two budget bills approved by the General Assembly last year that repealed the 1889 act authorizing the then-governor to accept the gift of the monument and directed the Department of General Services to

remove the 13-ton sculpture.

The plaintiffs argue that the budget bills were unconstitutional.

"What the Residents are asserting is that the state cannot arbitrarily take away their property rights, or remove a historic landmark, in violation of the Constitution of Virginia. If the Governor finds this assertion staggering, it can only be because he has an unlimited vision of governmental power. The state must comply with its contractual obligations, just like private citizens," attorney Patrick McSweeney argues in a legal brief filed with the Supreme Court.

The city of Richmond, which was the capital of the Confederacy for most of the Civil War, has removed more than a dozen other pieces of Confederate statuary on city land since Floyd's death, which prompted the removal of Confederate monuments in cities around the country.

Asia

AS IT COMPETES WITH US

China hosts South East Asian foreign ministers



In this Nov. 13, 2018, file photo, a worker adjusts the Brunei Darussalam flag prior the 22nd ASEAN coordinating council meeting on the sidelines of the 33rd ASEAN summit in Singapore.

BEIJING (AP)—China is hosting foreign ministers from 10 Southeast Asian nations this week amid heightened competition between Beijing and Washington for influence in the region.

Chinese state media said the meeting Tuesday in the southwestern megacity of Chongqing will cover issues from restoring tourism and other economic exchanges battered by COVID-19, to more coordinated efforts in fighting the pandemic and the feasibility of creating a vaccine passport to allow freer travel among them.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is also expected to meet separately with each of his counterparts on the sidelines of the conference.

Beijing has been building influence with the 10 countries that make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, despite frictions with some of them over rival territorial claims in South China Sea. The Philippines has complained repeatedly over the presence of Chinese boats moored at a reef that it claims and Malaysia last week pro-

tested over an intrusion by 16 Chinese military aircraft into its airspace, calling the incident a “serious threat to national sovereignty and flight safety.” Chinese economic and diplomatic heft have helped override such concerns, however, while the bloc has been unable to form a unified stand in the face of opposition from Chinese allies within, primarily Cambodia.

“Over the past three decades, China-ASEAN cooperation has grown in leaps and bounds, becoming the most successful and dynamic example of cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Sunday in announcing the meeting.

“The fact that the two sides agreed to hold a face-to-face special foreign ministers’ meeting despite the ongoing grim COVID-19 situation reflects how countries attach great importance to and hold high expectations of China-ASEAN relations under the new circumstances,” Wang said.

The U.S., which maintains

an active naval presence in the South China Sea and strong relations with the region, has expressed concerns over China’s growing presence, particularly its impact on security and Beijing’s political influence over fragile democracies.

In a meeting with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Tuesday, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman focused on China’s construction of new facilities at Ream Naval Base and urged Cambodia’s leadership to maintain an independent and balanced foreign policy, “in the best interests of the Cambodian people.”

China, meanwhile, calls the U.S. naval presence the biggest threat to security in the region, particularly its insistence on sailing close to Chinese-held features in what are termed freedom of navigation operations.

Beijing also strongly objects to strengthened relations between the U.S. and Taiwan, the self-governing island claimed by China, which threatens to use military force to bring it under its control.

Death toll in Sri Lanka floods, mudslides rises to 14

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The death toll from floods and mudslides following heavy rains in Sri Lanka rose to 14 with another two missing, officials said Sunday.

Ten districts on the Indian Ocean island have been under heavy rainfall since last Thursday, including the capital Colombo and suburbs where many houses, paddy fields and

roads have been inundated.

Ten people have died in floods while another four lost their lives in mudslides, according to the government’s Disaster Management Center. Among them was a family of four who died when a mound of earth crashed onto their house in Kegalle district, about 85 kilometers (53 miles) east of Colombo.

Two others remain missing.

Sri Lanka’s navy said it had deployed 33 teams to flooded areas, which so far have rescued 66 people stranded by the floodwaters.

The Disaster Management Center said the extreme weather has affected some 245,000 people, and over 4,300 remain displaced in emergency shelters. More than 800 houses have been damaged.

World

Pope voices his ‘pain’ over Canadian deaths

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis on Sunday expressed his pain over the discovery in Canada of the remains of 215 Indigenous students of church-run residential schools and pressed religious and political authorities to shed light on “this sad affair.” But he didn’t offer the apology sought by the Canadian prime minister.

Francis, in remarks to faithful gathered in St. Peter’s Square, also called on the authorities to foster healing but made no reference to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s insistence, two days earlier, that the Vatican apologize and take responsibility.

From the 19th century until the 1970s, more than 150,000 Indigenous children were forced to attend state-funded Christian schools, the majority of them run by Roman Catholic missionary congregations, in a campaign to assimilate them into Canadian society.

The Canadian government has admitted that physical and sexual abuse was rampant in the schools, with

students beaten for speaking their native languages.

Ground-penetrating radar was used to confirm the remains of the children at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in Kamloops, British Columbia, last month. The school was Canada’s largest such facility and was operated by the Catholic Church between 1890 and 1969.

“I am following with pain the news that arrives from Canada about the upsetting discovery of the remains of 215 children,” Francis said in his customary Sunday noon remarks to the public.

“I join with the Canadian bishops and the entire Catholic Church in Canada in expressing my closeness to the Canadian people traumatized by the shocking news,” Francis said.

“This sad discovery adds to the awareness of the sorrows and sufferings of the past,” he added.

Trudeau on Friday blasted the church for being “silent” and “not stepping up,” and called on it to formally apologize and to make amends

for its prominent role in his nation’s former system of church-run Indigenous residential schools.

He noted that when he met with Francis at the Vatican in 2017, he had asked him to “move forward on apologizing” and on making records available. But, Trudeau said, “we’re still seeing resistance from the church, possibly from the church in Canada.”

Chief Rosanne Casimir of the Tk’emlups te Secwepemc First Nation in British Columbia has said her nation wants a public apology from the Catholic Church. The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, which ran nearly half of Canada’s residential schools, has yet to release any records about the Kamloops school, she also said.

Francis’ comments spoke of healing but not of apology.

“May the political and religious authorities continue to collaborate with determination to shed light on this sad affair and to commit humbly to a path of reconciliation and healing,” Francis said.

Harris targets corruption, immigration on Latin America trip

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—With Kamala Harris visiting Guatemala and Mexico on her first foreign trip as vice president, the Biden administration is expected to announce new measures to fight smuggling and trafficking, and hopes to announce additional anti-corruption efforts as well, a senior administration official said Sunday.

Harris has been tasked by President Joe Biden with addressing the root causes of the spike in migration to the U.S.-Mexico border. Corruption, which the administration sees as directly related to the increased migration, is expected to be a central focus of her meetings with Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei on Monday and Mexico’s Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Tuesday.

The official, who briefed reporters traveling with Harris on Sunday, spoke on condition of anonymity to preview announcements before they have been made public. No further details were provided.

The trip got off to a rocky start when Harris’ plane returned to Joint Base Andrews in Maryland about 30 minutes after takeoff because of

what her spokesperson said was a problem with the landing gear. She departed on another plane about an hour and a half later.

Harris is seeking to secure commitments from Guatemala and Mexico for greater cooperation on border security and economic investment, but corruption in the region—a far more intractable challenge—will complicate her efforts.

It’s already had a significant impact on her work in Central America. Harris has yet to engage substantively with the leaders of Honduras and El Salvador, who are both embroiled in corruption scandals. And it’s an issue that experts say will need to be addressed to make any lasting changes.

“Corruption is a cancer in the region,” said Jason Marczak, director of the Atlantic Council’s Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center. “Addressing corruption is fundamental to creating hope and creating the potential for opportunity.”

Marczak noted that corruption affects human rights protections, employment opportunities, the cost of goods and much more. Jobs, he said, will come “with invest-

ment, and investment comes where there is certainty in the rule of law.” Without that, efforts to improve living conditions can only go so far.

Harris has laid out an approach centered on creating better opportunities and living conditions in the region through humanitarian and economic aid. She announced plans to send \$310 million to provide support for refugees and address food shortages, and recently secured commitments from a dozen companies and organizations to invest in the Northern Triangle countries to promote economic opportunity and job training.

Washington won some goodwill through its vaccine diplomacy this past week. Giammattei and López Obrador both received calls from Harris on Thursday telling them the U.S. would be sending 500,000 doses and 1 million doses, respectively, of COVID-19 vaccine.

While in Guatemala, Harris also plans to meet community leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs. In Mexico, she will speak with female entrepreneurs and hold a roundtable with labor workers.

Overdrive

Ford F-150 Lightning will be 1st all-electric pickup truck to offer full-size spare tire

By PHOEBE WALL HOWARD
DETROIT FREE PRESS

As the panting and drooling over upcoming all-electric pickups continues to dominate social media chatter among consumers and investors, just about everyone seems to be buzzing about Tesla, Rivian and Ford these days.

Ford revealed the Lightning on May 19 and while details involving the battery and other specs remain elusive, that stops no one from talk about what they do know.

There is one potentially huge accessory the Ford F-150 Lightning will offer that others won't: A full size spare tire.

Not a little bitty donut tire that offers just enough support to limp to the nearest tire shop in prayer that it doesn't bust en route, but an actual full-size spare that allows the truck owner to replace and continue with business uninterrupted.

While it may sound trivial, it isn't trivial at all.

Full-size spares aren't unusual on traditional internal combustion engine pickups including the Ford F-Series, Chevrolet Silverado, Ram 1500, Toyota Tundra and Nissan Titan. But the all-electric pickup is an entirely new game.

Tesla has not provided spares in its luxury electric vehicles as a standard benefit to date in order to limit weight while also providing free roadside assistance, and the company has said customers don't mind.

Ford says their customers don't view the truck as a lux-



The 2022 Ford F-150 Lightning.

TNS

ury lifestyle product or a toy.

The F-150 is a lifeline for working men and women.

"... A temporary donut spare tire won't work when you're far from pavement or roadside assistance with places to go and jobs to do," said Mike Levine, Ford North America product communications manager.

Ted Cannis, CEO of the Ford Pro business and government unit, tweeted on May 24, "When we talked to our customers, they insisted that we fit the full size spare!"

Early images of the Lightning show the spare neatly tucked under the bed, clearly visible to drivers from the rear. The front trunk, also known as a frunk, is reserved for massive storage.

No one knows truck customers like Ford after nearly half a century of building a bestselling multi-billion dollar brand.

"They didn't just throw the full spare in on a whim. That's a lot more mass, weight, cost, assembly time. But if that re-

ally matters to your customer, you put it in. You have to give the customer what they want," said John McElroy, host of the "Autoline After Hours" webcast and podcast and a veteran industry analyst. "Ford has done an astute job of prioritizing what goes in this truck."

Carlos Guevara Jr., tweeted from his @cargueone account on May 25 that work sites have nails and bolts everywhere, "unlike the perfect paved road most Tesla drivers use when driving."

These Ford F-150 trucks are designed to haul and tow, not loop Hollywood Boulevard or Times Square. (Tesla CEO Elon Musk made headlines and created social media excitement when he was spotted in a Cybertruck prototype in New York City last month before guest hosting "Saturday Night Live.")

The Ford Lightning and Tesla Cybertruck start just below \$40,000, less than an average sale of a non-electric 2021

F-150. Skeptics have worried electric vehicles would be too pricey for the average Joe. The Rivian starts at \$67,500. None of the list prices includes emissions incentives.

Meanwhile, the F-150 Lightning and Rivian R1T have a targeted EPA of 300 miles. Tesla's Cybertruck has a targeted EPA of 250 miles.

There's been no indication that either Rivian or Tesla will include full-size spares as a standard feature. The Rivian website says small and regular spare tires are optional. And Tesla offers spare tire kits as an option, too.

While all-electric competitors say they plan to disrupt the highly lucrative pickup market, Ford has said people won't buy an electric truck unless it has better tools and offers more productivity than its non-electric products.

"If you don't have a full-size spare, you've just lost time quickly getting back on the road and back to work,"

Levine said. "We know truck customers. They can't stop to fix things when there's no quick fix. When you look below the skin, Ford approached this like a truck company. But Lightning can do things no other truck can do—like power a home during an outage or at a job site as a mobile generator. That's the key."

Ford customers made headlines during the Texas power outage in February when they used hybrid 2021 F-150s to generate power to keep the lights on and make coffee.

Ford has spent years studying its consumers' behavior and gathering psychographic intel that guides the 118-year-old automaker.

"Since our roads here and Europe were once all dirt, all autos needed spares, so they were a design feature," said Maeva Ribas, manager of design research and strategy at The CARLAB Inc., an automotive product planning consulting group based in southern

California. "Today, we have mostly paved roads, with exceptions being New York City, Detroit and Los Angeles—which are 50% potholes. Now, only light trucks have spares."

"Considering an EV battery is as big as a bedroom mattress, kudos to Ford for packaging one while still giving real work truck buyers what they need: A spare. Real trucks have real spares," she said. "We don't notice them because they are usually packaged under the bed between two large frame rails."

Pickup trucks still need full-size spares because they get used by farmers, utility workers, contractors, Ribas said. "The pipeline crew in Alaska doesn't call Auto Club when they get a flat. It would be a big mistake for an EV pickup maker to assume it will be so-called 'personal use' buyers only. That is a temptation, but it's a trap other pickup challengers have fallen into before. Trucks are for work, and real work requires a proper spare tire—lifestyle pickup or not."

Full-size spares in all vehicles were universal until the "space-saver" or donut spare tires were introduced, said Jonathan Klinger, vice president of car culture at Traverse City-based Hagerty, the world's largest insurer of collector vehicles.

"In fact, many early cars through the 1920s could have more than one full-size spare tire as tire troubles were far more common during the early days of motoring," he said.

There were temporary bans on spare tires in any new vehicle due to rubber shortages during WWII and the Korean War.

Q: It should be clarified, in my opinion, that analog AM radio as we currently know it will soon be extinct, but there is an option for stations to convert to digital AM that was recently approved by the FCC. Also, some AM stations are currently using the HD FM format to transmit signals. In my area, WCCO 830 AM simulcasts on 102.9 KMNB-HD2.
—J.N., Minneapolis

A: That is good news, at least for some. The Federal Communications Commission will allow U.S. AM radio station owners to convert their stations to all-digital HD Radio transmissions if they choose to do so. The FCC approved it effective Jan. 1, 2021.

Q: Virtually every time I have my oil changed, when I get home and check the oil level, it is 1/8 to 1/4 inch

Motormouth: Changing channels

above the full indicator dot on the dip stick. I assume this is because the mechanic just pours in the whole 5 quarts. This really annoys me, but does it really make any difference to the engine or am I just overly sensitive about it?
—R.R., Riverwoods, Illinois

A: Being slightly over the full mark is no problem. One possibility is that the shop is in a hurry (who isn't these days?) and does not allow the oil to fully drain to the last drop. Some of the old stuff may be lingering inside the engine and that's OK.

Q: 2014 Chevy Compass. Once a month the battery dies. This happens after not driving for a couple days. Nothing found when left at

mechanic overnight to monitor where losing amps could be. This only started happening about 6 months ago. Purchased new battery but still something drained it. Could alternator be the culprit? Bought the car in 2015.
—T.K., Montgomery, Illinois

A: The alternator is an unlikely culprit. Try moving your key fob away from the car. Leaving it on the seat could keep the communication active between it and the vehicle. If that doesn't do the trick, there is probably a parasitic draw somewhere else.

Q: I have a Subaru Outback with AWD and 60,000 miles. The dealership keeps pushing me to change the front

and rear differential fluids at a cost of approximately \$185-190. The Subaru manual only suggests an inspection of the fluid and never actually recommends replacing, as they do for brake fluid and antifreeze. When I look online the consensus seems to be that this might be a good idea. I usually follow the manufacturers recommendation but am having second thoughts.

—L.M., Coopersburg, Pennsylvania

A: Would like a large fries with that burger? Businesses are in the business of making money. You can say no to the fries and differential fluids. Your option.

Q: This question has prob-

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



ably been asked hundreds of times, but I'll ask again. What's the best method to clean a dashboard and keep dust particles from staying away as long as possible? I really don't trust Armor All, which seems to attract dust faster.

—J. P., Bloomingdale, Illinois

A: I feel for you. Some

products seem to attract dust like a moth to light. I have asked friends what they use; Meguiar's Ultimate Interior Detailer, Griot's Garage Interior Detailer and 303 All Surface Interior Cleaner keep coming up. I borrowed each and they have worked well. But there are certainly other products. I just can't vouch for them.

Life & Style

Man fed up with proselytizing in-laws

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: I am having trouble dealing with my wife's extended family, who are mostly evangelicals. My family isn't overly religious and some are atheists. Her family doesn't think twice about asking me if I have a relationship with God, and have even declared that they are praying for me and my children. I chafe at these comments because I feel they do not respect our religious beliefs, as I do theirs.

This has been going on for all of the 40 years we've been married, and I'm ready to disassociate from them altogether. I do not want to be negative about their beliefs, but I should be entitled to mutual respect. Can you help, please?

LOSING PATIENCE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LOSING: I can try. One of the tenets of the faith of evangelicals is evangelizing—in other words, spreading the word about their beliefs. They feel that by doing this they are following their religion. When you are asked whether you have a relationship with God, your response should be that your relationship with God is as close as you need it to be, thank you—AND PLEASE DO NOT ASK AGAIN.

When they tell you they are praying for you and your children, say thank you again. A little prayer on our behalf hurts no one, and may make them feel better about their own lives. Limit your exposure if you must, but shunning your in-laws isn't the answer if your wife wants to maintain a relationship with them.

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband had an affair with a woman named "Lily" that lasted for the entire year we were separated. Although we tried to work on things, he continued to sleep with both of us. I got PTSD because of how bad it messed with my head. I wanted to keep my family together, but I was tired of being hurt.

When I finally let go, so did Lily. She got engaged not long after meeting her new boyfriend, but she and my ex still slept together. He had four relationships after her and kept trying to pursue me, but I didn't give him any more chances and met my now-husband.

After cheating in their subsequent relationships, my ex and Lily got back together. (She moved in because her fiancé kicked her out.) Eight months later they are now engaged. I don't feel safe with my son around them because they are so toxic. Am I wrong for wishing they would separate again and both stay out of my life? It's affecting me emotionally again, as well as making it hard for me to love.

ALMOST DESTROYED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ALMOST DESTROYED: You are spending too much time focused on your ex and his fiancée. They are birds of a feather and meant for each other. Because you are unable to eliminate your ex from your life—I presume because of the child you share—and the stress is affecting your mental health, it's time to consult a licensed mental health professional for help in insulating yourself from this toxic twosome.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Meghan and Harry welcome second child, Lilibet 'Lili' Diana

Prince Harry and Meghan may have stepped away from their royal duties—but family appeared to be top of mind in naming their second child, Lilibet "Lili" Diana Mountbatten-Windsor, who was born Friday in California.

The name pays tribute to both Harry's grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, whose family nickname is Lilibet, and his late mother, Princess Diana.

"Thank you for your continued kindness and support during this very special time for our family," Harry and Meghan, also known as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, wrote in a statement that accompanied the birth announcement Sunday.

The baby is "more than we could have ever imagined, and we remain grateful for the love and prayers we've felt from across the globe," they continued.

The baby girl was born at 11:40 a.m. at the Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara, California, and weighed in at 7 lbs, 11 oz, a spokesperson for the couple said. The child is eighth in line to the British throne.

A Buckingham Palace spokesperson said the queen; Harry's father, Prince Charles; his brother, Prince William; and other members of the family had been informed and are "delighted with the news of the birth of a daughter for The Duke and Duchess of Sussex."

U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson also congratulated the couple in a tweet.

Harry and Meghan Markle—formerly an actor—mar-



In this Wednesday May 8, 2019 file photo Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, pose during a photocall with their newborn son Archie, in St George's Hall at Windsor Castle, Windsor, south England.

ried at Windsor Castle in May 2018 and welcomed their son, Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor, a year later.

No photos of the newborn or the Sussexes accompanied the announcement. The couple has said that in lieu of gifts, they request those interested learn about or support nonprofit organizations working for women and girls, including Girls Inc., Harvest Home, CAMFED or Myna Mahila Foundation.

The birth of the healthy baby girl opens a happy chapter for the couple following a miscarriage in July 2020. Meghan gave a personal account of that traumatic experience in hope of helping others.

Months before the miscarriage, the couple announced they were quitting royal duties

and moving to North America, citing what they said were the unbearable intrusions and racist attitudes of the British media. They live in Montecito, an upscale area near Santa Barbara, California.

In the wake of quitting royal duties, they gave an explosive TV interview to Oprah Winfrey in March, in which the couple described painful comments about how dark Archie's skin might be before his birth and Meghan talked about the intense isolation she felt inside the royal family that led her to contemplate suicide.

Buckingham Palace said the allegations of racism made by the couple were "concerning" and would be addressed privately.

Winfrey and Harry recently collaborated on the Apple

TV+ mental-health series "The Me You Can't See."

In the interview with Oprah, Meghan also talked about the fact that her son was not given the title of prince. Harry said the royal family cut him off financially after he announced plans to step back from his roles—and that he was able to afford security for his family because of the money his mother left behind.

Despite leaving royal duties, Harry's place in the order of succession to the throne remains.

The first seven places remain unchanged: Prince Charles; Prince William; William's children, Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis; Prince Harry, and his son, Archie.

'Conjuring 3' tops 'A Quiet Place 2' as moviegoing returns

The domestic box office is getting back to normal, with moderate wins and sizable second weekend drops. After its triumphant first weekend, "A Quiet Place Part II" fell 59% at the North American box office leaving room for the third movie in the "Conjuring" franchise to take first place. Warner Bros.' "The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It" earned an estimated \$24 million, according to studio estimates Sunday, making it the biggest R-rated opening of the pandemic. Paramount's "A Quiet Place" sequel meanwhile earned \$19.5 million in ticket sales, bringing its domestic total to \$88.6 million.

"You normally don't see two horror movies at the top of the chart. But it was a solid weekend for both movies," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Com-

score. "The movie theaters are coming back and Memorial Day was no flash in the pan ... It feels like summer again."

"The Conjuring 3" has Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga returning as paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren. Although there's a whole extended universe set around these films that have thus far grossed over \$1.8 billion, this is the first "Conjuring" since 2016, and the first to be helmed by someone other than James Wan (Michael Graves directed). With an additional \$26.8 million from international territories, globally, the R-rated pic has grossed over \$57.1 million.

"It's a terrific result," said Jeff Goldstein, the head of domestic distribution for Warner Bros. "We're continuing to see a ramp up of return to life outside of our homes. It was nev-

er going to be a light switch."

In a pre-pandemic world, "The Conjuring 3" might have been considered a bit disappointing—the previous installments both opened around \$40 million. But, as Goldstein noted, the third films in a horror franchise often take a hit. It has another caveat too: The film is also currently streaming free for subscribers on HBO Max. Warner Media did not say how many people watched it on streaming over the weekend or how many new customers signed up for the service.

It has become more normal than not for films to embrace a hybrid day-and-date release strategy, with the major studios using their biggest titles to drive potential subscribers to their streaming services. "A Quiet Place Part II" had the rare distinction of being exclusively in theaters, but even so it

will be a shorter stint than usual before it hits Paramount+.

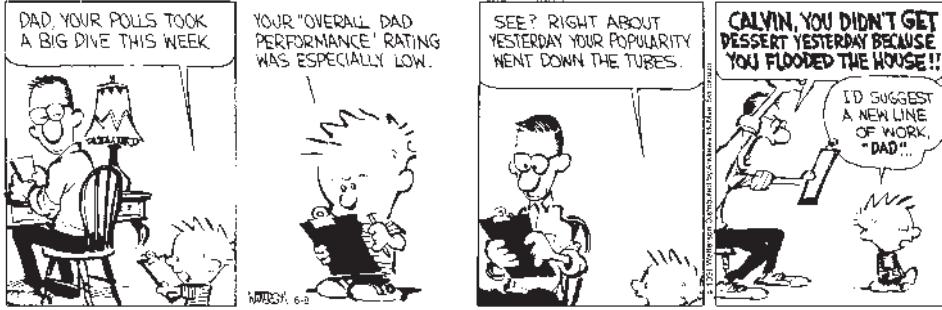
The Walt Disney Co.'s "Cruella," which opened in theaters last weekend, was also made available to rent on Disney+ for \$29.99. The Emma Stone and Emma Thompson pic added \$11.2 million from 3,922 theaters this weekend to take third place. Disney also did not say how much it earned from streaming rentals, but the company did note the drop from last weekend was only 48%. Globally, "Cruella" has earned \$87.1 million thus far.

The animated family film "Spirit Untamed" also opened wide theatrically this weekend in 3,211 theaters to an estimated \$6.2 million. The DreamWorks Animation film features the voices of Isabela Merced, Eiza González, Julianne Moore, Marsai Martin and Jake Gyllenhaal.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



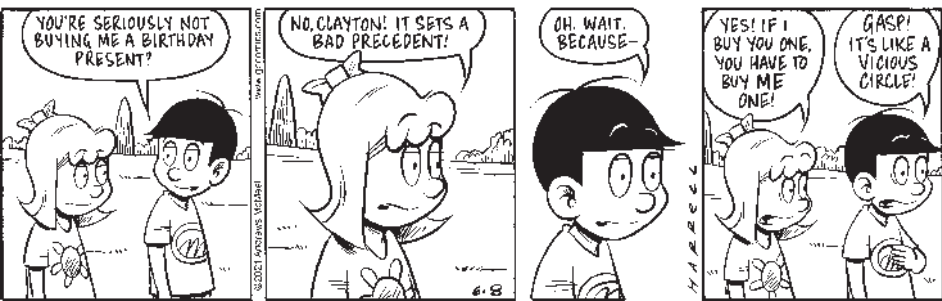
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



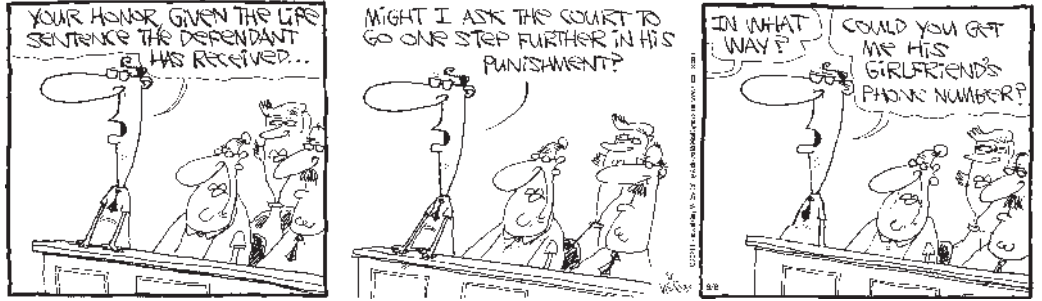
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Chow
- 5 "Incidentally," to texters
- 8 Actor's part
- 12 Green land
- 13 "Norma —"
- 14 Thor's father
- 15 Pink metallic shade
- 17 Office note
- 18 Greek vowel
- 19 Ram's mate
- 20 Angelic instruments
- 21 Scooted
- 22 Gaiety
- 23 Succeed
- 26 Shopper's quest
- 30 Saharan
- 31 Belly
- 32 Director
- 33 Mexican wraps
- 35 Concepts
- 36 Piratic potation

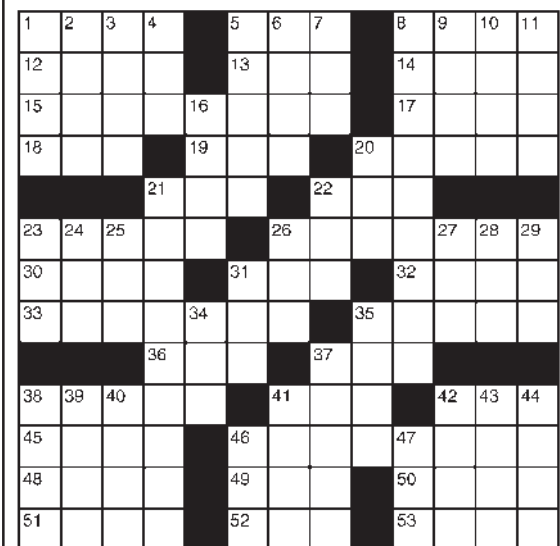
DOWN

- 1 Richard of "Chicago"
- 2 Laugh-a-minute
- 3 Celestial bear
- 4 Spell-down
- 5 Ivy League school
- 6 Story
- 7 Marry
- 8 Mars and Jupiter, e.g.
- 9 River to the Baltic
- 10 Flaccid
- 11 Eve's grandson
- 16 Equipment
- 20 "Ben- —"
- 21 Speed detectors
- 22 Blubber
- 23 Ozone, for one
- 24 Mine yield
- 25 Fragrant tree
- 26 Greyhound vehicle
- 27 Devoured
- 28 Call — day
- 29 Refusals
- 31 Prized possession
- 34 Bit of wit
- 35 Craving
- 37 Treaties
- 38 Peruse
- 39 Outside (Prof.)
- 40 Tehran's country
- 41 Call-length
- 42 Caron title role
- 43 Sciences' partner
- 44 Hum-drum
- 46 Flushed
- 47 Joke

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	A	A	A	G	A	E	U	J	I
S	P	U	R	R	U	G	O	V	D
H	E	R	O	C	A	L	A	M	A
E	X	A	C	T	M	O	L	D	
R	A	T	I	O	N	S	N	A	F
A	V	O	N	A	O	K	G	R	A
F	O	R	G	E	S	O	R	C	F
T	W	O	C	A	R	S	H	H	
H	U	E	S	O	A	S	S		
F	A	V	A	B	I	O	I	A	G
L	I	I	U	G	H	R	I	O	T
O	V	E	H	S	H	O	D	H	S

Yesterday's answer 6-8



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Maria Menounos, 43; Kanye West, 44; Julianna Margulies, 55; Keenen Ivory Wayans, 63.

Happy Birthday: A realistic approach to life, love and happiness will help you achieve peace of mind. Concentrate on what's important to you, and make lifestyle changes that suit your needs. Take control of your life. Refuse to put up with people and situations that make your life miserable. Your happiness is your responsibility; don't wait for someone to take over. Your numbers are 7, 12, 23, 28, 32, 39, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your facts straight. Think before you make a move. Be direct when dealing with problems and finding solutions. Evasiveness is not acceptable. Be open as well as receptive to the input offered. Be the one to make a difference. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Work with what you have. Designate a space that is conducive to getting things done. A disciplined approach to work will help you build trust and respect. It's OK to do things differently as long as you achieve your objective. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep life simple; stay focused on what's meaningful to you. Too much of anything won't make you happy or help you get ahead. Maintain integrity, and follow your heart personally and professionally. A minimalist attitude will result in clarity and wise decisions. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put more energy into things that matter to you. Express your feelings. Offer innovative ideas that will help make your life and the lives

of those around you more efficient. Personal improvements will lead to compliments. Welcome a romantic gesture. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Offer alternatives when faced with opposition. Be willing to cooperate and compromise. The easier you make it for others, the more respect you will gain. Use intelligence to control situations, not brute force. Surround yourself with hardworking individuals. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Say little, but do a lot. Put your heart into what you believe is best for you and those you love. Don't listen to someone pushing his or her agenda. An unexpected opportunity will lead to a positive physical change. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Figure out what's important to you. Once you make a move, expectations to follow through will surface. Consider what it will take to reach your goal and how taxing it will be on you physically before you proceed. ***

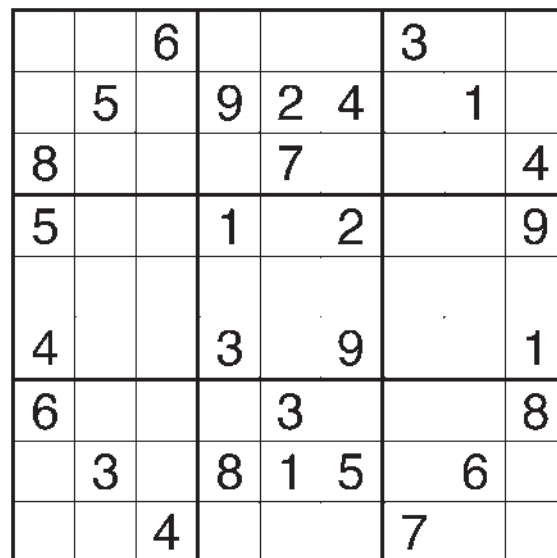
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A change will make you feel better about your future. Add to your qualifications. Explore something that interests you and turn it into an asset you can market. Don't hesitate to do things differently. An investment will pay off. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll gravitate toward unique situations. Be thorough when investigating information offered before you get involved in something. A partnership won't provide what it suggests. Look at the fine print before signing. ***

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



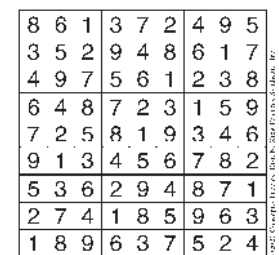
Difficulty Level ★★

6/08

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Distance yourself from people who ask for too much. Don't wait until you are angry to put an end to a difficult situation. Choose your battles wisely, and put your energy where it will bring the most in return. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Beware of erratic people who can't make a decision or fall short of your expectations. Stay focused on what you are trying to achieve, and use intelligence to get your way. Personal improvements will boost your morale and encourage romance. **



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Spend less time analyzing a situation and more time doing something about what you want. Make an aesthetic adjustment at home that is conducive to accomplishing your goals. A creative outlet will help ease stress. Make health a priority. ****



Birthdays: You are intelligent, sensitive and bold. You are changeable and protective.



⊕: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ⊕⊕: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ⊕⊕⊕: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ⊕⊕⊕⊕: Aim high; start new projects. ⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BABY-PROOFING

Solution: 10 letters



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Appliances, Balcony, Banister, Beds, Bench, Blinds, Block, Cords, Covers, Crib, Dirt, Dish, Doors, Edges, Fence, Foam, Fridge, Gates, Glass, Guard, Heaters, Home, Kitchen, Lamp, Latches, Locks, Medicines, Nurseries, Outlets, Oven, Padding, Pillows, Plants, Plugs, Pools, Razors, Screen, Sockets, Stairs, Stove, Tables, Toilets, Vases, Vent, Wipe, Wires, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Treatment

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 45 through 62 order on me at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Clippers beat Mavs 126-111 to win series



LOS ANGELES (AP)—No chest-thumping, shouting or theatrics. With very little change of expression, Kawhi Leonard altered the Los Angeles Clippers' playoff fortunes.

Leonard narrowly missed a triple-double, finishing with 28 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, to help the Clippers finish off the Dallas Mavericks 126-111 on Sunday in Game 7 of the first-round series.

"It's all about the moment," Leonard said. "You got to be aggressive all night and don't try to make the game be perfect."

Playing in front of a noisy mix of 7,342 masked fans and cardboard cutouts, the Clippers did what neither team had been able to pull off in the first six games — win at home. It was the first time in NBA history the road team won the first six games of a playoff series.

"We saw everything in this series," Mavs coach Rick Carlisle said.

The Clippers became the fifth team in league history to lose the first two games at home and come back to win a playoff series.

"It was a great win for us," said Tyronn Lue, who improved to 4-0 in Game 7s of his coaching career. "It showed a lot about our team."

The fourth-seeded Clippers advanced to the Western Conference semifinals for the second straight year. They'll play the top-seeded Utah Jazz starting Tuesday night in Salt Lake City.

"We showed great resilience," said Paul George, who scored 22 points. "They pushed us. They definitely got us war-ready. We hung in there, we played for one another, we played hard."

Luka Doncic had 46 points, 14 assists and seven rebounds to lead the fifth-seeded Mavs, who have yet to win a playoff series since capturing the NBA championship in 2011. He finished the series with 250 points, 55 rebounds and 72 assists.

"Game seven is the toughest game. You've got to give it everything," Doncic said. "We've been in the playoffs twice since I've been there, lost both times. You get paid to win."

George added 10 assists and six rebounds for the Clippers. Their backups outscored Dallas' reserves, 27-6, getting crucial contributions from Terance Mann (13 points) and Luke Kennard (11 points). Kennard had played just four minutes earlier in the series.

"They trusted me," Kennard said. "We trusted each other."

The Clippers were the



Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic (77) talks with Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard (2) after Game 7 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Sunday, June 6, 2021, in Los Angeles, Calif.

league's top 3-point shooting team during the regular season, but struggled at times in the series. They regained their touch in Game 7, making 20 3s, led by Morris' seven. The Mavs hit 10, with Doncic having five.

Trailing by eight at half-time, the Mavs outscored the Clippers 19-6 to open the third and take an 81-76 lead. Doncic had just two points in the run, with Dorian Finney-Smith hitting two 3-pointers and Tim Hardaway Jr. adding another. Finney-Smith finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

The Mavs won the first two games at Staples Center before the Clippers tied it up with two wins in Dallas. The Mavs won Game 5 in LA and Leonard powered the Clippers to a road win in Game 6 with a huge fourth quarter.

"We all feel like we should have won the series," Finney-Smith said. "If anybody come in and say they don't feel like we should have won, they're crazy. We just couldn't win at home."

The Clippers took control with a 24-4 spurt — including 12 in a row — to lead 100-85 going into the fourth. Morris made three 3-pointers and Kennard hit a pair. Leonard scored seven points, highlighted by a dunk off George's pass. Defensively, Leonard came up with a big block and Mann helped contain Doncic, who had the Mavs' only points

over the end of the third.

"Kawhi came with the mentality that he's going to take this game," said Reggie Jackson, who added 15 points. "He wasn't going to be shy about his play at all. Once he got going early, defenses had to change."

Dallas cut its 19-point deficit early in the fourth to seven points on Doncic's fifth 3-pointer of the game with just under 3 minutes remaining. But the Clippers' own long-range prowess carried them, with Jackson and Morris connecting on back-to-back 3s for a 120-107 lead.

Doncic matched his points total from Game 6 with 29 points in the first half on 10 of 14 shooting.

Hawks 128, 76ers 124

In Philadelphia, Trae Young put an early smackdown on Philly that had the Hawks in control of Game 1 and finished the win with a lob to John Collins for a one-handed jam.

Collins punched the air in celebration—and the Hawks took a moment to exhale after a hefty lead was nearly squandered.

"Thank God we were up 20," Hawks guard Kevin Huerter said.

Young scored 25 of his 35 points in the first half as Atlanta shook off Joel Embiid and a hostile crowd and held on to beat the Philadelphia 76ers 128-124 Sunday in their Eastern Conference semifinal opener.

"The confidence in all these guys is high," Young said. "We're out here playing for each other. Out here having fun. Everyone's locked in."

Embiid raised a sledgehammer as he returned from a one-game absence with a cartilage tear in his right knee. He walked out with WWE star Triple H to a roaring ovation.

Young and the Hawks had the Sixers down for the count from the jump and led by 26 points.

The Sixers—playing in front of their biggest crowd of the season at 18,624—refused to easily cede home court and Embiid scored consecutive baskets that brought them within three with 1:01 left.

Bogdan Bogdanovic, who missed all three games in the season series against the 76ers with a knee injury, steadied the Hawks when he buried a 3 that gave them needed breathing room.

He even put his fingers to his lips and shushed the raucous crowd for good measure.

"He's a big shot maker," Huerter said.

That wasn't the only long shot that went off successfully.

Going off as five-point underdogs, according to FanDuel Sportsbook, the Hawks made 14 of their first 18 buckets and were the aggressors, eagerly seizing their moment on national television. Young, much like he did in five games against the Knicks when he

averaged 29.2 points, thrived in the spotlight. For all the focus on Embiid, All-Star Ben Simmons and the top-seeded Sixers, Young was the can't-miss player in Game 1 — as in, he rarely did with the ball, and all eyes were on him.

The Hawks used a 17-0 run in the first half — they hit 20 3s overall — and Young was shaking, saluting and toying with the Sixers and the crowd. Young bowed during the clincher to the New York crowd that had jeered him in every game. He stuck a pose in Philly — he held his right arm high and pointed toward the basket for several seconds that followed a 27-footer he buried to close the first half.

"They hit us in the mouth to start the game," 76ers coach Doc Rivers said. "They were the more physical team. They were the more aggressive team. They played harder, early."

Danny Green could not hang as the primary defender on Young instead of Simmons, an NBA defensive player of the year candidate.

Simmons said he wanted his shot for a full 40 minutes on Young and the Hawks expected a shift in strategy.

"Eventually, he'll see some time on a guy who's hot," coach Nate McMillan said.

The 6-foot-1 Young led the Hawks to the playoffs for the first time since 2017 and has craved the pressure that comes

with playing big postseason games in big markets.

One Knicks fan spit on Young during the first-round series. In Philly, he heard "Trae is balding! Trae is balding!" chants that dimmed with each 3-pointer — he hit four 3s and had 10 assists. He waved off fans with a 3 in the third quarter that cut off a small Sixers run.

Embiid answered the will-he-or-won't-he play question when he walked out for pregame introductions in matching T-shirts with the star wrestler — Triple H's D-Generation X faction was Embiid's favorite — and had the packed house going wild as he held the sledgehammer high over his head.

Embiid did his part with 39 points and nine rebounds in 38 minutes after he suffered a small lateral meniscus tear in his right knee last Monday against Washington. Embiid, who sat out the Game 5 clincher, grimaced at times against the Hawks and hit the floor hard when he lunged at Collins and fouled him.

"Playing on a torn meniscus is not easy," Embiid said. "The pain is going to be there. That's normal. It's about managing it."

Tobias Harris had 20 points and 10 rebounds. Simmons scored 17 points and again struggled from the free-throw line, going 3 for 10.

Bogdanovic and Collins each scored 21 points for the Hawks.

Game 2 is Tuesday in Philadelphia.

The Sixers made easy work of Washington in five games and with home court throughout the East playoffs, a potential date with Brooklyn seemed in the cards. Sixers fans chanted "We want Brooklyn" as they wrapped a Game 5 win last week.

But they forgot about Trae.

Just 14-20 when the Hawks fired coach Lloyd Pierce on March 1, the Hawks are 33-12 since. They had the best record in the East after McMillan took over, and Young said he isn't satisfied with just one series victory.

The Sixers made them work for it in a furious fourth — but the Hawks held on and gave Atlanta sports fans something to feel good about on Sunday.

"All the individual stuff is for the birds," Young said. "All we care about is wins."

Yuka Saso wins US Women's Open on 3rd playoff hole

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yuka Saso modeled her golf game after Rory McIlroy, spending hours watching videos of his swing before going to bed each night in order to perfect her own.

All that work paid off and now Saso is a U.S. Open champion just like her idol thanks to a clutch playoff putt after a back-nine collapse by Lexi Thompson.

Saso's 10-foot putt for birdie on the third playoff hole Sunday helped her edge out Nasa Hataoka and become the second teenager to win the U.S. Women's Open.

Saso overcame back-to-back double bogeys early in the round to make the playoff and then became the first player from the Philippines to win a golf major.

"I was actually a little upset," Saso said about her poor start. "But my caddie talked to me and said, 'Just keep on going; there's many more holes to go.' That's what I did."

Both players made pars at Nos. 9 and 18 in the two-hole aggregate playoff, sending the tournament to sudden death back at the ninth hole. That set the stage for Saso to win it just up the road from Daly City, dubbed "Little Manila" for its large population of Filipinos.

There were many on hand for the final round, including several with Filipino flags for the occasion.

"I don't know what's hap-



Yuka Saso, of the Philippines, celebrates her victory during the final round of the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament at The Olympic Club, Sunday, June 6, 2021, in San Francisco.

pening in the Philippines right now, but I'm just thankful that there's so many people in the Philippines cheering for me," she said. "I don't know how to thank them. They gave me so much energy. I want to say thank you to everyone."

Saso matched 2008 winner Inbee Park as the youngest U.S. Women's Open champion at 19 years, 11 months, 17 days.

Thompson, who had a five-stroke lead after the eighth hole, played the final seven holes in 5 over to finish a stroke back.

"I really didn't feel like I hit any bad golf shots," she said. "That's what this golf course can do to you."

The only other players to finish under par on the Lake Course at Olympic Club were Megan Khang and Shanshan Feng, who both were at 2 under.

High school junior Megha Ganne played in the final group but shot 77 and finished 3 over as the low amateur for the tournament.

"I'm going to remember this for the rest of my life," Ganne said. "It's everything I've wanted since I was little, so it's just the best feeling."

Saso has talked frequently about her time studying McIlroy's swing and the four-time major winner said he saw the similarities and was flattered

by it. McIlroy also sent Saso an Instagram message before the final round imploring her to get the trophy.

"I saw it this morning, and I was like, 'Ohhh!'" she said. "I should have reposted it but I was so busy this morning, so I'll do it later. I felt really happy."

Saso got the trophy after a rough start to the final round with double bogeys on the second and third holes that seemed to knock her out of contention. She managed to steady herself with a birdie at No. 7.

Saso then made back-to-back birdies on the par-5 16th and 17th holes to get to 4 under and join Hataoka in the playoff. Hataoka used a run of three birdies in a four-hole span on the back nine that put pressure on Thompson.

Thompson wilted down the stretch, making this the seventh straight LPGA Tour major won by a first-time winner.

The first U.S. Women's Open on the fabled Lake Course at the Olympic Club ended up like so many of the previous five times the men competed for the national championship here.

The 54-hole leader didn't win any of those five U.S. Opens played by the men, helping the Olympic Club earn the moniker of the "Graveyard of Champions." Previous winners Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer, Tom Watson, Payne Stewart, Jim Furyk

and Graeme McDowell all got caught on the final day at Olympic and were denied their titles.

Thompson had a five-stroke lead when she walked off the eighth green but she squandered it all on the back nine. She made a double bogey at No. 12, a bogey at 14 and then a bogey 6 on the par-5 17th that was reachable in two shots based on the tee location.

"I didn't hit a bad drive," Thompson said. "The wind just never got it and then it tried to bounce right, and I've never seen a lie that bad. That's what this course can do. Just got the wind wrong on a few shots coming in."

Her approach shot on the par-4 18th ended up in the bunker and then she missed a 10-foot putt to make the playoff.

That left her winless in 15 tries at the U.S. Women's Open that she first competed in as a 12-year-old in 2007.

Thompson was unable to add a second major to the one she won at the ANA Inspiration in 2014. It was another final day disappointment to go with the one that happened at that same tournament in 2017 when she was penalized four strokes during the final round for misplacing her marked ball the previous day and lost in a playoff.

"It's hard to smile, but it was an amazing week," Thompson said.

CHICAGO (AP)—Tony La Russa moved past John McGraw into sole possession of second on baseball's career manager wins list, directing the Chicago White Sox to a 3-0 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Sunday.

It was win No. 2,764 for La Russa, who was hired by Chicago in October for his first managerial job since he led St. Louis to the World Series championship in 2011. It has been a bit of a bumpy ride so far, but the 76-year-old Hall of Famer has the White Sox on top of the AL Central.

Second on the list is almost assuredly the highest finish for La Russa, who also began his managerial career with the White Sox in 1979. The top spot belongs to Connie Mack with 3,731 victories.

Phillies 12, Nationals 6
In Philadelphia, stadium workers using tractors scrambled to hoist the protective netting behind home plate after it suddenly collapsed while Trea Turner was batting in the eighth inning. No one appeared to be hurt in the mishap, which caused a 20-min-

La Russa gets 2,764th win, passes McGraw for 2nd place

ute delay.

Red Sox 6, Yankees 5, 10 innings

In New York, Xander Bogaerts hit a two-run single with two outs in the 10th inning, and the Boston Red Sox held off the Yankees in a wild finish for their first three-game sweep in the Bronx since June 2011.

Marwin González launched a tying homer in the seventh for Boston and made a slick defensive play at second base with a runner in scoring position for the final out. González also turned a tough double play in the bottom of the 10th — and committed a throwing error that put Tyler Wade on second with two outs.

Brewers 2, Diamondbacks 0

In Milwaukee, Corbin Burnes (3-4) struck out a career-high 13 in seven innings, sending Arizona to its team-record 17th straight road loss.

Daniel Robertson homered in the fifth off Caleb Smith (2-2) and Tyrone Taylor in the sixth against Riley Smith as the Brewers completed a four-

game sweep for their four-game home winning streak since Sept. 19-22, 2019.

Marlins 3, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Sandy Alcantara (3-5) gave up one run and six hits in eight innings, ending Miami's longest losing streak in six years at eight games.

Yimi Garcia pitched a perfect ninth inning for his 10th save.

Orioles 18, Indians 5

In Baltimore, Cedric Mullins hit a leadoff homer as part of a three-hit day, and Baltimore scored its most runs since beating Oakland 18-2 on Aug. 16, 2015. The Orioles had 21 hits.

Mullins reached base in his first five plate appearances before his flyout in the eighth ended his on-base streak at 11. He had hits in nine consecutive at-bats in that span.

Braves 4, Dodgers 2

In Atlanta, Max Fried out-pitched Trevor Bauer, and Atlanta took two of three in the first meeting of the teams since Los Angeles rallied from a 3-1 deficit to win last year's

NL Championship Series.

Fried (3-3) allowed one run and six hits in six innings and walked none for the first time in nine starts. Bauer (6-4) gave up three runs and six hits in six innings and matched his season high of four walks for the fourth time.

Astros 6, Blue Jays 3

In Buffalo, N.Y., José Altuve led off the game with a home run, rookie Luis García (5-3) earned his fifth straight win, allowing one run and three hits in six innings.

Ryan Pressly worked the ninth for his ninth save.

Twins 2, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Mo., Minnesota first baseman Miguel Sanó swooped in to catch a popped-up bunt and start a triple play.

With Jarrod Dyson on second and Cam Gallagher on first, Nicky Lopez bunted to the right side. Sanó charged in to make the catch and threw to shortstop Andrelton Simmons to double off Dyson.

Reds 8, Cardinals 7

In St. Louis, Jesse Winker hit a

tiebreaking home run off Alex Reyes (3-2) in the ninth for his second three-homer game this season, and Cincinnati completed its first four-game sweep of St. Louis since May 4-7, 1990.

Winker had six RBIs and Eugenio Suárez added a two-run double for the Reds, who led 7-0 by the third inning.

Rockies 3, Athletics 1

In Denver, Germán Márquez (4-5) allowed one run and four hits in six innings, and Colorado avoided a three-game sweep. Daniel Bard pitched two innings for his seventh save.

Rays 7, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Texas, rookie Taylor Walls had a tiebreaking, two-run double in the eighth off Josh Sborz, his season-high third hit, after Tampa Bay loaded the bases with no outs against John King (5-4).

Cubs 4, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Patrick Wisdom hit a pair of home runs and drove in three runs in helping Chicago avoid a four-game sweep. Wisdom has

seven home runs in 13 games this season.

Kyle Hendricks (7-4) won his fifth straight start, allowing three runs and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings. Craig Kimbrel struck out two in a perfect ninth for his 14th save.

Mets 6, Padres 2

In San Diego, Marcus Stroman won his second straight decision after four consecutive losses and doubled in a run as New York gained a four-game split.

Stroman (5-4) gave up an unearned run and four hits in 6 2/3 innings with seven strikeouts and four walks, his most since Sept. 12, 2019. Miguel Castro and Trevor May finished a six-hitter.

Mariners 9, Angels 5

In Anaheim, Calif., Donovan Walton hit the go-ahead home run in the third inning, and Logan Gilbert (1-2) struck out seven and allowed two hits in five innings for his first major league win.

On a day when Patrick Sandoval (0-2) induced 32 swings and misses, the most of any big league pitcher this year, Walton led off the third by lining a fastball down the right-field line for a 2-1 lead.

Serena Williams loses at French Open; Federer withdraws

PARIS (AP)—Serena Williams turns 40 in September. Roger Federer hits that milestone the month before. No one knows how many more French Open appearances each will make, and this year’s tournament ended for both on Sunday.

Williams fell way behind and could not put together a comeback against a much younger and less-experienced opponent in the fourth round

at Roland Garros, losing 6-3, 7-5 to Elena Rybakina — who wasn’t even born when the American made her tournament debut in 1998.

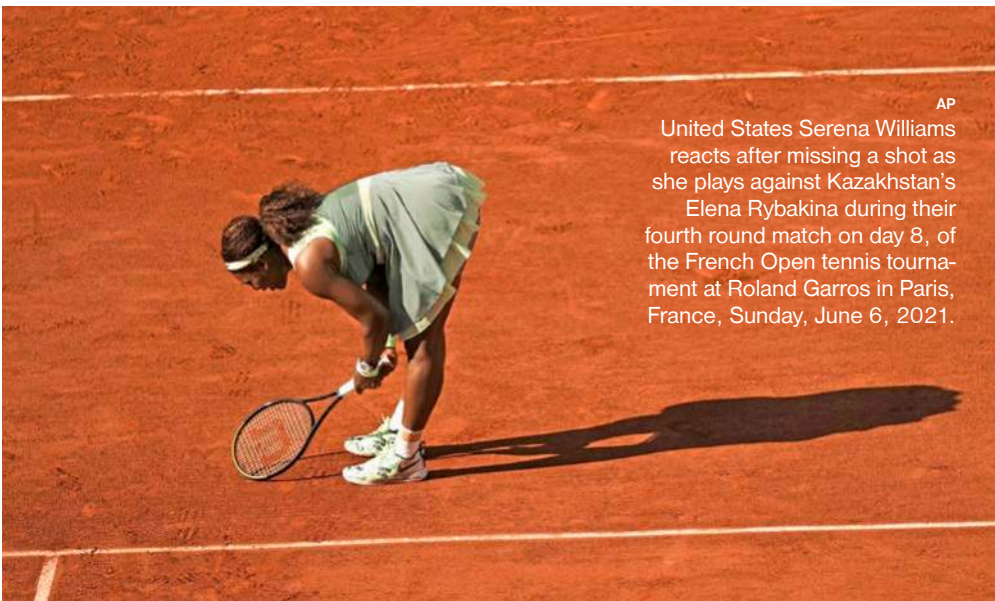
Asked whether that might have been her last match at the clay-court major, Williams responded: “Yeah, I’m definitely not thinking about it at all. I’m definitely thinking just about other things, but not about that.”

Her defeat came hours after Federer withdrew, saying he needed to let his body recover ahead of Wimbledon after a long third-round victory that ended at nearly 1 a.m. on Sunday.

Wimbledon—which Federer has won eight times and Williams seven—begins June 28.

“I’m kind of excited to switch surfaces,” Williams said. “Historically I have done pretty well on grass.”

She has won 23 Grand Slam singles titles; Federer has won 20. They are two of the sport’s greatest and most popular players, so it was quite a blow to the tournament, its TV partners and tennis fans to see



AP
United States Serena Williams reacts after missing a shot as she plays against Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina during their fourth round match on day 8, of the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros in Paris, France, Sunday, June 6, 2021.

“Then, after few points, I felt ... comfortable.”

Rybakina said she followed her coach’s strategy of sending shots to Williams’ backhand side and trying to stay away from her forehand.

Every time Williams appeared as if she might turn things around, she could not quite get the momentum fully in her favor.

Down a quick break in the second set, she got to 2-all. Williams then was down 4-3 in the second set but pulled even again when Rybakina sailed a forehand well wide to get broken.

In the next game, Williams gave away the opening point when, near the baseline, she failed to get out of the way of a shot from Rybakina that was flying long. Williams smiled ruefully and leaned over, resting and propping herself up with her racket.

Repeatedly one sort of mistake or another undid Williams. She ended up with 19 unforced errors and only 15 winners.

WOLLAK

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Wine and Spirits. Other sponsors include Joeten Motors Co., McDonald’s Saipan, Shell Marianas, IT&E, and Cristiano’s Food Trailer.

“Without their support we wouldn’t be able to raise all the money for Saipan Cares that we did,” he said.

Wollak, a long time physical education teacher, kicked off the golf tourney 12 years ago with the intent to neutralize the playing field so everyone can succeed.

“I golf with a bunch of people with a big range of ability levels. I wanted to have a little tourney with specialized rules depending on each golfer’s handicap. I guess as a PE teacher, that is how my brain works, trying to find ways to neutralize the playing field so everyone can contribute and be successful. I came up with a team-based tournament that is partially is a combination of individual play and scramble play,” he said.

MARIANAS

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ous donations of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Bridge Capital LLC, Micronesia Brokers Inc, Western Sales Trading Company, D&Q International Distributors, Joeten Enterprises, Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods Inc, Megabyte, 4Ever CNMI, Ete Cafe, and Leonisa and Ken Kato.

The camaraderie and support seen throughout the event highlighted this year’s mental health awareness campaign, as both participants and spectators joined in to cheer each other on.

In addition to the close-

out event, there were various other outreach and awareness activities completed during the month of May to shine a spotlight on the importance of caring for everyone’s mental health and to reinforce the message that positive mental health is essential for healthy development. Activities included a pre-recorded proclamation signing video with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, a 5K or 1 mile virtual run, multiple mental health campaign videos featuring different groups from our CNMI community sharing how they take care of their mental health, a Mental Health First Aid Train-

ing for adults, a Drop Everything and Reset virtual activity targeting school-aged students and their families, physical health and wellness content shared via social media, a Vibe in Color obstacle course on Rota, a 2-day 3 x 3 basketball tournament on Tinian, Zumba on both Saipan and Tinian, a coffee and paint activity for parents, and daily postings for spirit week.

Over 8,600 individuals participated in mental health awareness outreach activities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Additionally, the robust social media campaign drew over 10,100 viewers. The activities were made possible with the

support and assistance from valued community partners such as the Northern Marianas Athletics, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc., CHCC NCDB, CNMI Public School System’s Mental Health Team, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Division of Youth Services, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and the Northern Marianas College.

The strong community support for mental health awareness activities highlights the importance of continuing and sustaining mental health promotion, prevention, and intervention efforts. For more

information on available behavioral health services and support, contact the Community Guidance Center at (670) 323-6560 or 6561.

The Mental Health Awareness Month events were supported through funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grants 1H79SM082964 (System of Care Program) and 1H79SM081982 (Healthy Transitions Program).

For more information about CHCC programs, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @cnmichcc; visit www.chcc.gov.mp; or call (670) 234-8950. (PR)

MLB STANDINGS					
AMERICAN LEAGUE					
East Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Tampa Bay	38	23	.623	—	
Boston	36	23	.610	1	
Toronto	30	27	.526	6	
New York	31	29	.517	6½	
Baltimore	21	38	.356	16	
Central Division					
Chicago	36	23	.610	—	
Cleveland	31	26	.544	4	
Kansas City	29	28	.509	6	
Detroit	24	35	.407	12	
Minnesota	24	35	.407	12	
West Division					
Oakland	35	26	.574	—	
Houston	33	26	.559	1	
Seattle	30	31	.492	5	
Los Angeles	27	32	.458	7	
Texas	23	38	.377	12	
NATIONAL LEAGUE					
East Division					
New York	29	23	.558	—	
Atlanta	28	29	.491	3½	
Philadelphia	28	30	.483	4	
Miami	25	33	.431	7	
Washington	24	32	.429	7	
Central Division					
Chicago	33	26	.559	—	
Milwaukee	33	26	.559	—	
St. Louis	31	29	.517	2½	
Cincinnati	28	29	.491	4	
Pittsburgh	23	35	.397	9½	
West Division					
San Francisco	37	22	.627	—	
San Diego	36	25	.590	2	
Los Angeles	34	25	.576	3	
Colorado	24	36	.400	13½	
Arizona	20	41	.328	18	
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS					

TORRES

From Page 20

letes the opportunity expand on their abilities,” he said.

In addition, the new state-of-the-art sports complex, once built, will allow the CNMI to invite international competition over and allow the CNMI to host events on a larger scale.

“Now we can invite international competition and even regional competition. We’re going to have the Pacific Mini Games next year and we’re hoping to host bigger events,” he said.

The most important of all, Torres said the grant will build a place that will bring families together.

“All together, it’s about putting health and family as a priority. We want to promote sports and bring families together,” he said.

In a statement, Northern Marianas Sports Associa-

tion president Jerry Tan said the EDA grant will encourage federations to continue to level-up in terms of sports administration.

“NMSA encourages its member-federations to level up in terms of sports administration and national athletes and coaches development, grassroots, and inter-scholastic programs and having the Oleai Sports Complex undergo a major transformation through the EDA grant will help them achieve these goals and more,” Tan said.

With world-class facilities, he said athletes and coaches will also be better prepared for competitions.

“We can bring in more students and young athletes to various sports programs, widening the pool of talents we can develop for the national team and prepare for athletics scholarship opportunities. The transformation will also provide our

community a safer and suitable venue to conduct activities that promote a healthy and active lifestyle,” he said.

Also, Tan said one of NMSA’s long-term goals is to be self-sufficient by generating revenue through the operations of the Oleai Sports Complex and with the EDA grant, it would help NMSA build a world-class facility that would allow the CNMI to host off-island teams for their training camps and related activities.

“We used to have Japanese and Korean professional baseball teams coming over for Winter training and we could have them back and attract new groups to help promote The Marianas as a sports tourism and world-class destination,” he said.

Ultimately, the future transformation of the Oleai Sports Complex into one of the world-class facilities in the region will definitely have a

big impact to the CNMI sporting community, the CNMI economy, and the health and wellness of CNMI residents.

“Together, these will lead to a better quality of life for all who call The Marianas home,” he said.

Tan would like to thank the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce for the approval of the grant that would help transform the Oleai Sports Complex into a world-class facility.

He also gives recognition to Torres, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the Office of Planning and Development, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) for their assistance on the project.

Tan also gives credit to previous NMSA leadership, specifically director Laurie Peterka, for putting together all the sports federations’ proposals.

In a nutshell, renovation and

rehabilitation of the existing Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium will include repairing and enhancing storm resiliency and improve the building. Construction will include roofing resistant to 190 miles per hour winds and a second-floor with an office space and conference rooms.

A separate concrete storage facility (approximately 10 ft. x 20 ft.) will also be constructed to be associated with the gym and track.

The grant would also cover the construction of an Olympic-size swimming pool with associated facilities such as a cantilevered roof, electronic timers, pumps, piping, water storage, spectator bleachers, locker rooms, and utility rooms.

Two International Tennis Federation tennis courts with associated facilities such as warm-up walls, fencing, and bleachers will also be covered by the grant.



Clippers beat
Mavs 126-111
to win series

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Serena Williams
loses at French Open;
Federer withdraws

PAGE 19



20 TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

ON \$21.2M GRANT FOR OLEAI SPORTS COMPLEX

Torres: Athletes can now dream big



IN SUPPORT OF MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Marianas Relay draws over 100 participants

In celebration of May as Mental Health Awareness Month, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center, in collaboration with Northern Marianas Athletics and various community partners, hosted the Marianas Relay last May 29 at the Oleai Track and Field. The event promoted mental health and wellness through physical health and nutrition, by encouraging community members to take proactive steps to improving their overall health and well-being.

A total of 37 teams and over 100 participants laced up on the track to "pass the baton" in support of mental wellness in the CNMI. The Marianas Relay was officially launched

with two teams grinding and husking their way to victory in the Micronesian All-Around. The 4x100 relay, mixed medley, and community shuttle followed respectively, featuring a combination of teams spanning the ages of 4 to 60.

Participants were also able to avail of free blood pressure and glucose screenings from the Northern Marianas College Nursing Club and program information from the Community Guidance Center and the Non-Communicable Disease Bureau (NCDB). Team incentives, raffle prizes, and refreshments were made available through the gener-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants husking coconut as part of the Micronesian All-Around Relay during last May 29's Marianas Relay.

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the recent approval of the \$21.2-million grant by the U.S Economic Development Administration that would fund the transformation of the Oleai Sports Complex, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said it will give CNMI athletes a dream to pursue.

In an interview during the official announcement of the EDA grant yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex, Torres

said the revamping of the Oleai Sports Complex into a world-class facility is going to give CNMI athletes a home to hone

their abilities and dream big.

"It's going to give our athletes a dream to pursue. It's also going to give us a better

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Government officials, led by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and member of the sports community pose for a photo after the official announcement of the U.S Economic Development Administration grant that would transform the Oleai Sports Complex to a world-class facility within the Pacific region.

place to call home in terms of sports tourism, local sports, and it will also give our ath-

See **TORRES** on Page 19

Wollak Cup raises over \$900 for SCA

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The 12th Wollak Golf Classic or Wollak Cup garnered \$909 that was donated to Saipan Cares for Animals to continue their work in rescuing animals and providing low cost services to the Northern Mariana Islands.

According to Dan Wollak, the organizer of the Wollak Golf Classic, the event that was held last weekend and consisted of 64 players and were spread out into 16 teams and 100% of the proceeds went to support SCA. The tourney started with just 20 golfers and has grown each tournament.

The championship was awarded to Wollak and his team the Sandbaggers who combined for a net of 69 1/3 and won the perpetual trophy along with the \$200 cash prize



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 12th Wollak Golf Classic or Wollak Cup garnered \$909 that was donated to Saipan Cares for Animals to continue their work in rescuing animals and providing low cost services to the Northern Mariana Islands.

or \$50 per player. The winning team consisted of Wollak, Shayne Villanueva, Steve Mullin, and Mike Hall.

Aside from the cash prize, the winners also got their name forever engraved on the perpetual WGC trophy.

Coming in at second place

was the Whi-Tees who accumulated a total net score of 72 1/3. The group consisted of Justin Lowe, Kyle Mulligan, Flor Jones, and Jeremy Rother.

Rounding up the Top 3 was Under Perfect who ended the tourney with a combined net score of 73 2/3.

The third-place team were Charlie Peters, Kimi McKagan, Don Hallmark, and Salam Younis.

Wollak said he would like to thank the event's main sponsors MARPAC and Shelf

See **WOLLAK** on Page 19